Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th, Shahaq Continue Negotiations in Taba 1
Sha'th Interviewed on Talks *[Jerusalem International]* 1
Sha'th Says Talks 'Useful' *[MENA]* 1
Sha'th Cited on 'Serious Disagreement' *[HA'ARETZ 11 Jan]* 2
Shahaq Comments on First Day *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 2
Sha'th, Shahaq Meet Privately 11 Jan *[MENA]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration States Conclude Meeting 2
Ministers' Statement Issued *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Al-Shar' Comments on Geneva Summit *[Damascus Radio]* 4
Al-Asad Satisfied With Results *[Damascus Radio]* 5
Khaddam Meets Kuwaiti Minister *[KUNA]* 5
Kuwaiti Minister Hails Meeting *[KUNA]* 5
Khaddam Meets Saudi Foreign Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 6
Saudi Minister Lauds Meeting *[SANA]* 6
Syrian, Egyptian Ministers Comment *[Damascus Radio]* 6
Qatari Minister on Arab Issues *[Cairo International]* 6
Foreign Ministers Depart Damascus *[SANA]* 7
IRNA Views 'Failure' of Meeting *[IRNA]* 7

Islamic Affairs

Palestinian Negotiator Briefs ICO Leader *[KUNA]* 7

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Queried on Peace, Ties With Jordan *[AL-WAFD 6 Jan]* 8
'Arafat Said To Divert Funds To Fight Factions *[AL-'AHD 31 Dec]* 9
'Arafat Discusses Peace With UK Delegation *[Algiers VOP]* 9
'Ashrawi Urges More Democracy in PLO Leadership *[Vienna DER STANDARD 10 Jan]* 9
Fatah Hawks Oppose 'Nonessential' Use of Arms *['AL HAMISHMAR 10 Jan]* 10
Hamas' Ghawshah Sees 'Year of War' Ahead *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Jan]* 10
U.S. Position on PLO-Israeli Talks Questioned *[Sanaa VOP]* 11
Construction Firm Proposes $30-Billion Project *[AFP]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FFS To Boycott National Dialogue Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Dembri Receives Western Saharan President *[Algiers TV]* 14
New Governor Appointed for Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Egypt

Musa Returns From Damascus, Views Meetings *[MENA]* 14
Gunmen Kill Police Officer, Driver in Asyut *[MENA]* 14
Arrests of Suspected Fundamentalists Reported *[AFP]* 14
Court Hears Defense in 'Abd-al-Rahman Case *[MENA]* 15
Security Searches Tunisian Plane for Explosives *[MENA]* 15
Omani Minister Arrives With Message for Mubarak *[MENA]* 15
Received by Mubarak *[MENA]* 15
Writer Views Lessons of Algerian Crisis *[AL-AHRAM 4 Jan]* 15
Embargo Forces Workers To Return From Libya *[AL-SHA'B 7 Jan]* 16

Libya

Al-Bishari Views Lockerbie Case, al-Kikhya 16
Interviewed on Ties With U.S., Egypt *[AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 6 Jan]* 16
Accuses 'Foreign Elements' on al-Kikha *[AL-SHA'B 7 Jan]* 17
Disappearance Seen as 'Warning' to Algeria *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 10 Jan]* 17
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Crowds During Visits 18
Promises No 'Surrender' *[Tripoli TV]* 18
Views 'Confrontation' With West *[Tripoli TV]* 18
Official Receives Sudanese Interior Minister *[Tripoli Radio]* 19
Agreement Signed *[Tripoli Radio]* 19
Accord Minutes Signed *[Tripoli Radio]* 19
Al-Humaydi Praises Results of Tunisian Visit *[Tripoli Radio]* 19
U.S.' 'Blatant Interference' in Syria Attacked *[JANA]* 20

Morocco

Ministers Attend Meeting on GATT Implications *[MAP]* 20
Premier Receives Senegalese Minister for Talks *[MAP]* 20
Premier Receives Malian Foreign Minister *[MAP]* 20
UMT Secretary Meets With Italian Counterpart *[MAP]* 20

Sudan

Garang, Mashar Sign Joint Plan for Negotiations *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Jan]* 20
Rebels: Garang Faction Poised To Attack Mashar *[AFP]* 21
Eleven SPLA Members Join Government Forces *[AFP]* 22
Official: Relief Supplies Reaching South *[SUNA]* 22
Russian Plane Chartered To Transport Supplies *[SUNA]* 22

Tunisia

President Confirms 20 Mar Elections *[Tunis TV]* 22
Turkish Defense Minister Notes 'Close Bonds' *[Tunis Radio]* 23
Meets With Ben Dhia, Departs *[SPA]* 23
Economy Minister Meets Britain's CBI Director *[Tunis Radio]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Message to 'Arafat *[SPA]* 24
Prince Sultan, UK Defense Secretary Hold Talks *[Riyadh TV]* 24
UK's Rifkind Departs After Visit *[SPA]* 24
Prince Sultan Meets Malian Foreign Minister *[SPA]* 24

Yemen

Four Yemeni Workers of U.S. Oil Firm Released *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 25
Ulema Vow To Stay at Mosque Until al-Bid Arrives *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
President Salih Gives Address on Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Salih Receives Jordanian Envoy, King's Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 26

Al-Bid Holds Talks With Jordanian Envoy *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
Jordanian Officers Refused Entry to Aden *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Jan]* 27
Dialogue Committee Debates Document on Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* 27

IRAQ

Regime Continues Shelling of Southern Marshes *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 28
Kurdistan 'Minister' Receives U.S. Officials *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 28
Kurdistan's Rasul Sends Message to UK's Major *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 28
Members of Presidential Guard Said Dismissed *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 28
Regime Said Hiding Chemical Weapons in Oil Pipes *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 28
Clandestine Reports Minister Threatens Kuwait *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 28
Official Remarks on 'Kuwaiti Prisoners' *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Saddam Thanked by Yasir 'Arafat in Cable *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Arab League Notified of Aircraft Violations *[INA]* 29
Letter to UN Protests 'Violations' *[INA]* 29
Airspace 'Violations' 4-6 Jan *[INA]* 30
Cabinet Approves Increase in Bank Capital *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Barzan al-Tikriti on Peaceful Trends in 1994 *[Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH 5 Jan]* 30

ISRAEL

Officials: Washington Talks Only After Taba *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Rabin Seen 'Uptight' at Clinton-al-Asad Summit *[HA'ARETZ 11 Jan]* 32
Envoy: Israel-Syria Understanding 'by April' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Government Defeats No-Confidence Motion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Challenge to Netanyahu's Leadership Reviewed *[HA'ARETZ 10 Jan]* 33
IDF Prepares for Gaza, Jericho Evacuation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Settlement Leaders End Support for 'Campaign' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Grenade Wounds 2 Servicemen in Khan Yunus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Hizballah Announcement on MIA's: 'Good News' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Military Industries Providing Weapons to Romania *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Japanese Vice Minister Meets With Leadership *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Kenyan President Moi Pays Official Visit 36
Received by Peres, Weizman *[Nairobi Radio]* 36
Moi Confers With Rabin, Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Moi Praises Peace Accord *[Nairobi Radio]* 36
Banking Agreement Reached *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Education, Culture Agreements Signed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Moi Urges Investment in East Africa *[Nairobi Radio]* 37
Moi Praises Parliamentary System *[Nairobi Radio]* 37

JORDAN

Al-Majali Views Latest Regional Developments *[Amman TV]* 38
Al-Majali Blames Media for Strains With Gulf *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Jan]* 38
'Abd-al-Shafi Briefs 'Reformists' on Peace Talks *[Amman TV]* 39
Palestinian Ambassador on Agreement, Commission *[Amman TV]* 39
Al-'Anani on Opening of Banks in West Bank *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Jan]* 39
Bank Governor Denies Dinar Devalued *[AL-DUSTUR 9 Jan]* 40
Members of Jerusalem Affairs Committee Named *[Amman Radio]* 41
Paper Views Jordanian-Palestinian Accord *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Jan]* 41
AL-DUSTUR Praises Agreement *[8 Jan]* 42
Al-Farhan Reelected IAF Secretary General *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Jan]* 43
King Receives Omani Envoy, Qabus Message *[Amman TV]* 43
Minister Comments on Talks, Departs *[Amman Radio]* 43
Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 9 Jan *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Jan]* 44

LEBANON

Germany Seeks Libyan Suspect in Lebanon *[AL-ANWAR 5 Jan]* 45
U.S. Congress Visit Provokes 'Controversy' *[MENA]* 45
U.S. Firms Said Encouraged To Buy Land in South *[AL-'AHD 31 Dec]* 45
Gunmen Attempt To Storm Yemeni Embassy *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Cabinet Decides To Keep Agenda Secret *[VOL]* 45

SYRIA

Al-Asad Taking 'Complete Peace Document' to Summit *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Jan]* 46
Clinton-al-Asad Summit Previewed *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Paper: 'New Opportunity' in Damascus Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Iranian Envoy Delivers Message to Hekmatyar *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Hezb-e Eslami Urges 'Neutral' Government *[Tehran Radio]* 49

India

Rao Comments on 'Polarization' of Parties *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Says 'Secular Foundation' Secure *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Rao Urges Ties With Beijing To Ensure Peace *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Pakistani Prime Minister's Trip to PRC Viewed *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 2 Jan]* 50
Government Totals 1993 Foreign Investment *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Khamene'i Speaks on Prophet's Anniversary *[Tehran Radio]* 51
President Marks Anniversary *[Tehran Radio]* 52
President Seeks Khamene'i Approval for Purge *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Jan]* 52
Larijani Leads Delegation to Germany *[AFP]* 53
Velayati Departs for Ireland *[Tehran Radio]* 53
'Cordial Relations' With Saudi Arabia Urged *[IRNA]* 53
Seminar on Central Asia, Caucasus Planned
[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 1 Jan] 53
Conference on 'Cultural Assault' Concludes Work *[IRNA]* 54
HAMSHAHRI's 'Insincere' Policy Criticized *[RESALAT 2 Jan]* 54
New Unit Opened at Arak Refinery *[IRNA]* 54

Pakistan

Leghari, Bhutto Urge Permanent Afghan Truce *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
UNSC President Concerned About Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Indian Parliamentarians Attend Reception *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Minister Accuses RAW of Training Activists *[THE NEWS 7 Dec]* 55
Foreign Minister's Remarks on Kashmir Criticized *[THE NATION 10 Jan]* 55
Frequent Visits by U.S. General Queried *[THE NEWS 8 Jan]* 56
Improved Performance by Bhutto Government Urged *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 10 Jan]* 56
Minister Accuses Sharif of Refusing Offer *[Islamabad TV]* 57
Military Arrests Murtaza Bhutto Committee Member *[THE MUSLIM 9 Jan]* 57

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th, Shahaq Continue Negotiations in Taba

Sha'th Interviewed on Talks

JN1001140794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1050 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, by Hasan Abu-Zayid in Taba on 10 January, carried within the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Zayid] The talks between the Israeli and Palestinian sides resumed at Taba Hotel today. Members of the two delegations arrived at the meeting lounge at approximately 1130. This meeting was preceded by a meeting between heads of the two delegations Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Major General Amnon Shahaq. The head of the Palestinian delegation reiterated that it is possible to resolve pending issues within three weeks. He expressed the hope that the Israeli side will also be ready.

[Sha'th] Our expectations are that we are here to write the final agreement. We should end this work in three weeks in the interest of our peoples. I believe that if intentions are good, three weeks will be enough time to reach an agreement that will then be submitted to our political leaderships, for amendment, approval, and then finally for signing so the implementation of this agreement can begin.

[Abu-Zayid] Israeli sources ruled out reaching an agreement within three week, saying it will take three months?

[Sha'th] In this case, you should ask who is ready and who is not ready. He who says that we need three months violates the agreement and does not want to finalize it. The agreement should have been finalized on 13 December. However, it was postponed due to certain circumstances. We were ready to finalize the agreement in one week. So, what happened to make this take three months. I believe that this is a test of both sides' intentions?

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, are you just going to discuss formal issues at today's meeting?

[Sha'th] There are things concerning essence and others concerning form. In fact, we have not yet discussed the form. Therefore, we should write the agreement in a way that will enable us to implement it concerning everything on which we have agreed. We should use the time to discuss what we do not agree on.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, how would al-Asad-Clinton meeting affect the talks?

[Sha'th] I believe that the al-Asad-Clinton summit will succeed in returning Syria to the peace process. This is something very positive, and we are looking forward to it because we want the entire peace process to succeed—all its tracks—not only the Palestinian track. When the al-Asad-Clinton summit succeeds to return Syria to the peace process, Lebanon and Jordan will also go back to the peace process. At that time, we will all be working in the same direction; something which supports the entire peace process.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, what are the points on which differences are centered?

[Sha'th] The truth is that this expression was the result of the talks that were held in Cairo, Oslo, and Paris. At that time, we decided to focus on the issues of crossings, the size of the Jericho area, and the area of the Israeli settlements and the security area surrounding them in the Gaza Strip. We believe that we made progress concerning these three issues although we did not reach full agreement on them. However, there are other issues on which we must concentrate this time other than these three issues. I believe that these three issues, in addition to other points, such as security on land and in the sea, security on roads, and the transfer of civil powers, are all issues on which we can reach an agreement. This is not impossible. We knew that these issues were difficult when we began these negotiations, and we also knew that they were difficult when we signed the Washington agreement. So, there is no surprise here. Differences should not surprise anyone, for negotiations constitute a means to reach an agreement on points of disagreement through both sides' flexibility based on the principles we set in Washington. I believe that this is possible.

Sha'th Says Talks 'Useful'

NC1001192794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Taba, 10 Jan (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli delegations concerned with implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement concluded their evening working session after meetings that lasted approximately seven hours under Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

Dr. Sha'th told reporters that today marks the beginning of a return to negotiations here in Taba on the basis of the principles included in the agreement and the concepts worked out in Cairo. He noted that this meeting, which has brought us again to Taba, will lead us in the shortest possible time to formulate a full agreement on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He described today's negotiations in Taba as successful and useful, noting that all issues were reviewed in preparation for forming subcommittees tomorrow to formulate clauses relating to security, the transfer of civil powers, and the general agreement. He voiced his hope that this work will be completed as quickly as possible. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Cited on 'Serious Disagreement'

TA1101091094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jan 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Gay Bekhor and Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] The first day of talks between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Taba ended in serious disagreement about the interpretation of the "Cairo understandings," after some Israeli delegates reiterated that the understandings were as binding on the Palestinians as an actual agreement.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, said the Palestinians "once again categorically rejected the attempt to bind them to the Cairo understandings." According to him, "instead of making progress, the sides were busy yesterday with the presentation of documents and discussions of their interpretation, but on this issue, too, no agreement was reached."

Sha'th added: "If the Israelis raise the interpretation of the Cairo understandings once again, I will be certain that Israel is trying to hold back the talks. Until now, I thought we may be having trouble communicating, but after today's round of talks I have serious doubts."

He added: "If the Israeli delegation plans to entrap or embarrass the other side—that is us—or portray us as fools, I do not see how it plans to sign an agreement with us afterward." [passage omitted]

Sha'th disclosed to HA'ARETZ all the documents he sent to Major General Amnon Shahaq, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, and those he received from him. He also disclosed a document with Prime Minister Rabin's reservations about the Cairo understandings. "Did you know that Rabin also had reservations about them? The document contains nine reservations about the border crossings and the size of the autonomous areas in Gaza and Jericho. Rabin sent me the letter via Shahaq, and I never mentioned it until this moment," Sha'th said.

"Here is the famous letter I sent to Shahaq with Yasir 'Arafat's reservations. As you see, 'Arafat has fewer reservations than Rabin. Therefore, these obviously are fluid matters. There is no agreement, and this is merely an attempt to entrap the Palestinians," he asserted.

Sha'th even disclosed that the Palestinians submitted to the Israeli delegation a 70-page document yesterday containing their updated versions of the comprehensive agreement and of the security protocol. According to him, "this is a compromise between the positions of both sides, based on the protocols of 8 December. It is a serious effort on our part to prove that the negotiations in Taba can be completed within two to three weeks. We are now awaiting Israel's response." [passage omitted]

[A report by No'omi Levitzky on pages 1 and 19 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 11 January notes that the document presented by the Palestinians yesterday "makes no mention of their demand to increase Jericho's autonomous area beyond the 55 square km agreed upon in Cairo."]

Shahaq Comments on First Day

TA1001175694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The first day of deliberations between the Israeli and PLO delegations ended in Taba a short time ago. The two sides described today's talks as satisfactory. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports from Taba:

Today was the test of the immense diplomatic effort invested in the past few weeks in Oslo, Paris, in Cairo which was ultimately crowned with success. The agenda for the continuation of the Taba talks was set today. It was decided to resume the talks tomorrow morning, apparently once again in a limited forum. In a news conference with dozens of television and radio crews from all over the world, Nabil Sha'th described today as a useful day. Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation, was asked whether it was a positive day:

[Begin recording] [Shahaq] I cannot point to any impressive progress today, but we exchanged ideas and picked up from where we left off almost two months ago.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you set an agenda for the continuation of the talks?

[Shahaq] We received several papers from the Palestinians which we will have to peruse, and we agreed on tomorrow's agenda.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are the Cairo understandings included in the [words indistinct]?

[Shahaq] We continue to talk here on the basis of the Cairo understandings. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 10 January adds: "When asked whether he believes the negotiations will be completed within three weeks, as Nabil Sha'th stated, Shahaq replied: We will continue the negotiations for as long as necessary."]

Sha'th, Shahaq Meet Privately 11 Jan

NC1101092094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Taba, 11 Jan (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli talks on implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement resumed in Taba this morning. The talks began with a private meeting between Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration States Conclude Meeting

Ministers' Statement Issued

CM1101151394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jan 94

["Press statement" issued by foreign ministers of Damascus Declaration states at conclusion of meetings on 10 January; passages in boldface omitted in Damascus

Syrian Arab Republic Radio in Arabic newscasts at 1915 and 2115 GMT and by Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic in its 1830 GMT newscast on 10 January]

[Text] Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states held their eighth meeting on Sunday and Monday, 27 and 28 Rajab, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 9 and 10 January 1994, in the city of Damascus under the chairmanship of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and in the presence of His Highness Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates; His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs in the State of Bahrain; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Highness Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman; His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, minister of foreign affairs in the State of Qatar; His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in the State of Kuwait; and Mr. 'Amr Musa, minister of foreign affairs in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His Highness Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also participated in the meetings. **The ministers reviewed the Middle East peace process and discussed its developments since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, considering it a first step that should be completed by steps on the other tracks in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.**

In their deliberations, the ministers concentrated on the extreme importance of the anticipated summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. They underscored the vital and important Syrian role in securing the success of the Middle East peace process and emphasized their states' strong support for President al-Asad. They expressed the hope that this meeting will lead to a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle in a manner that leads to the Israeli withdrawal from all of the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and guarantees the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

The ministers have discussed the situation in the Gulf region. In this regard, the ministers reaffirm their countries' concern for the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Iraq. They also hold the Iraqi regime fully responsible for the suffering being experienced by the Iraqi people. **The ministers strongly condemn the Iraqi regime because of its pursuit of a selective approach in its implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy regarding its aggression against the State of Kuwait, because it has continued to threaten Kuwait, and also because of its hostile conduct toward Kuwait. Moreover, they reaffirm their full support for the State of Kuwait in the face of all these threats, and renew their demand that the Iraqi regime comply with the cease-fire terms and honor all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly those concerning borders, the release of all Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees, and compensation. The ministers reiterate that respect by Iraq for the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait and its international borders, as approved by the UN Security Council per Resolution 833, is at the heart of the commitments enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 687, and that its failure to do so would be a violation of the essence of this resolution.**

The ministers have also reviewed with interest the call made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], urging the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold a direct dialogue with the UAE on **its occupation of** the three UAE islands of Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra, and Abu Musa. **While commending this call, the ministers urge Iran to respond favorably to this call, particularly since it seeks to reach a peaceful settlement of this dispute in line with international law, international conventions, and the principles of good neighborliness, and mutual respect among states. The ministers reaffirm their support and backing for the peaceful measures and means the UAE may pursue to regain its sovereignty over these three islands.**

The ministers once again voice their grave concern over developments in Somalia. **They appeal to all Somali leaders and factions to make the national interest outweigh all other considerations. They also urge them to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions, and cooperate with the efforts of both the United Nations and the OAU to ensure the achievement of peace, security, and stability in Somalia.**

The ministers voiced grave concern over the situation in Afghanistan and appealed to all the leaders to give priority to national interests to safeguard the Afghan people's interests.

The ministers also voiced their deep concern for the failure of the influential world forces to take note of the tragic political and humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. **They vehemently condemned the continued Serbian aggression and the Serbs perpetration of all kinds of crimes against humanity. The ministers called on the UN Security Council and the influential international forces to take all necessary measures, including the lifting of the arms embargo from Bosnia and Hercegovina, to end this people's tragedy. They also called for them to maintain the sanctions imposed on Serbia until it respects the resolutions and principles of international legitimacy, and halts its violations of the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina and of its people's rights.**

The ministers noted with satisfaction the implementation of the recommendations issued at their previous meeting in Abu Dhabi on 12-13 June 1993, which seek to invigorate political and economic coordination and cooperation among the Damascus Declaration countries

in a manner that will enable them to proceed with this march of cooperation in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Damascus Declaration.

The ministers expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Syrian Arab Republic president, government, and people for hosting this meeting and for the warm welcome and the hospitality they were accorded.

The ministers welcomed the kind invitation Kuwait has extended to host the next meeting of the Damascus Declaration states' foreign ministers in Kuwait.

Faruq al-Shar' concluded the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states with a speech in which he said: Your Highnesses and Excellencies, Dear Brothers: At the end of our meetings yesterday and today I would like, on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic, to express great satisfaction with the results that we attained during our deliberations. I would like to thank you all for the cooperation we have sensed during our meetings and for the sincere spirit that prevailed among us enabling us to reach a common perspective on all the issues we have discussed and about which we have adopted the appropriate stands.

Al-Shar' added: As I said in my opening speech, our stands toward the basic issues are identical or very close. There are no serious differences between us. Hence, we express our satisfaction as well as our thanks for all the efforts and pains you have taken to reach this satisfactory result. As I said a short while ago, the statement issued in the name of us all as eight Arab states contains the main topics discussed during your deliberations.

The foreign minister added: We also agreed to hold the next meeting in the sisterly State of Kuwait and we are happy to do so at the appropriate time. Once again I thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this important meeting, which came at a critical time in the region's life, hoping that our unified positions, joint concepts, and aspiration for a real Arab solidarity will deliver this nation from the setbacks to which it was exposed and help us all rectify the big imbalance existing in the Arab arena. Thus we can confront future challenges with sincere determination and unified opinion on whose basis we can restore our legitimate rights and occupied lands and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in this region on the basis of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. In the meantime, we stress that realizing such peace will inevitably achieve security and stability in the region—a region that has suffered a great deal and offered many sacrifices. Our cooperation will, God willing, continue. The words we exchanged on our faith in cooperation and coordination among our states, our comprehensive Arab vision, and our desire to lay the bases of pan-Arab security will all place our march on the right track.

We pray to God to grant us all success. I thank you again for taking the trouble of coming to Syria—your country. I wish you success and a safe return home.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, meanwhile, gave a speech, in which he said:

My colleagues have asked me to speak on their behalf and extend our thanks to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and his government, as well as the Syrian people for the hospitality and kind reception accorded us in this hospitable country. We are all extremely happy with the outcome of our meeting.

We are equally satisfied with the progress the eight countries have made in their effort to advance their cooperation. We are similarly impressed by the course we have charted for our future action. I must thank the conference chairman for the wise way in which he conducted our sessions and for attaining the outcome we had set out to achieve—results that matched our leaders' aspirations as the eight states proceed within the framework of the Damascus Declaration.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to tell brotherly Syria that we fully appreciate its attachment to Arab causes, notably the peace process. In this regard, we were impressed by the Syrian official assertions, echoed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to us this morning, that Syria will continue to work relentlessly to promote a just and comprehensive peace in the region. I take this opportunity to tell my brother [Faruq al-Shar'] and through him His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as the Syrian people and Government, that they can count on all of us supporting Syria until such peace that meets our interests and our legitimate demands comes to the region. Again, we thank the conference chairman for the successful way in which he conducted its proceedings. We hope the next sessions will be just as successful. We join you in thanking Kuwait for offering to host our next session. Thank you, Your Excellency Mr. Al-Shar'. Please accept our wishes of success and prosperity for the brotherly Syrian people. Farewell.

Al-Shar' Comments on Geneva Summit

JN1001142294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Damascus Declaration foreign ministers held a closed meeting this morning, during which they continued their discussion of the topics listed on the agenda.

In a statement to reporters this morning, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: We are satisfied with the deliberations taking place among the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states. The ministers expressed interest in the declaration and the need to activate it and implement its provisions in the various domains, particularly the political and economic ones. Moreover, all the ministers expressed a great deal of interest in the anticipated summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. Al-Shar' stressed that the anticipated summit is very important, as admitted by several countries and nations in the region. Al-Shar' said: We look forward with optimism to the summit meeting

in order to achieve results and successes that would help establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. He added: The topics the two presidents will discuss in Geneva are the peace process and the way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, in addition to bilateral relations. An extensive discussion will be held on the overall situation in the region.

In a statement to reporters today, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed the need to implement the Damascus Declaration provisions, indicating that the current meeting of the declaration states' foreign ministers will boost the Syrian position on the restoration of the Golan. He called for seeking the best ways and means to serve the Arab economic situation. Musa paid tribute to the fraternal relations between Syria and Egypt and described them as strong. He said: Bilateral coordination exists and continues.

Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin Jabr Al Thani said the Damascus Declaration is not a bloc disconnected with the Arab League, but a group of principles agreed on by the eight states to provide an appropriate atmosphere for joint cooperation under all circumstances. In a radio statement today, Shaykh Hamad said he hoped that the Damascus Declaration will continue to exist and serve as a model for the other Arab states. The Qatari minister said that it is joint interests that determine cooperation among states. Hence, he said, the Damascus Declaration was ratified. He stressed his country's commitment to the joint Arab action regarding the Arab boycott of Israel.

Al-Asad Satisfied With Results

JN1001164994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states on the conclusion of their Damascus meeting.

The ministers briefed the president on the proceedings of their meeting.

Speaking on behalf of the ministers, [Kuwaiti Foreign Minister] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah voiced satisfaction with the results achieved by the meeting and support for Syria's efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said he hopes these efforts will realize their objective.

Shaykh al-Sabah said the Damascus Declaration member states are committed to joint cooperation within the Declaration's framework in all fields to serve the national interests of the member states and Arab national issues.

The ministers expressed their appreciation of Syria's policies and the president's pan-Arab stands.

The president voiced satisfaction with the results of the foreign ministers' meeting and the support they expressed for Syria's pan-Arab policy. He said Syria will continue to work in accordance with its pan-Arab principles to defend Arab issues and rights and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Khaddam Meets Kuwaiti Minister

LD1001143194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Damascus, 10 Jan (KUNA)—First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has held a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria Ibrahim al-Musa, who attended the meeting, said that the discussion dealt with the firm fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries Kuwait and Syria and ways of developing them in various fields.

In his statement to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, Ambassador al-Musa added that Shaykh Sabah and Khaddam expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries and stressed their desire to bolster them. He pointed out that the talks dealt also with the subjects discussed by the Damascus Declaration states, the situation in the area, and the peace process in light of the planned summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton in Geneva in the middle of this month.

Kuwaiti Minister Hails Meeting

LD1001174994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1609 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Damascus, 10 Jan (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the results of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member-states of the Damascus Declaration, which ended here today, as being "good." In a statement to KUNA after the meeting, Shaykh Sabah said "the meeting led to many positives we have always looked for." He added: "We have invited the next session of the ministerial council of the Damascus Declaration States to meet in Kuwait. The declaration lays down that such a meeting be held once every six months, and we in Kuwait are looking forward to the timely convening of the session. The foreign ministers will hold consultations on this issue."

He pointed out that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal spoke at the final session on our behalf—as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the chairman of the current session of the Gulf Cooperation Council—and expressed our pleasure with the good results we arrived at, and with our profound satisfaction with what has been achieved within the framework of joint cooperation between the member-states of the Damascus Declaration.

Shaykh Sabah will leave Damascus later today after participating in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member-states of the Damascus Declaration.

Khaddam Meets Saudi Foreign Minister

JN1001144594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah at 0915 today. The Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the results of the meetings held by the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states, the Arab situation, and bilateral relations.

Khaddam also received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1300 today. Talks dealt with the outcome of the meetings held by the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states, the Arab situation, and bilateral relations.

Saudi Minister Lauds Meeting

JN1001171694 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Damascus, 10 Jan (SANA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has voiced satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting held by the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states.

In statements to reporters after the conclusion of the meeting, al-Faysal said the principles and foundations of the Damascus Declaration have patched up the remaining Arab cohesion. The declaration, he said, will, God willing, help remedy the Arab situation.

Syrian, Egyptian Ministers Comment

JN1001113894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Statements by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to unidentified reporters "following the evening closed meeting held by the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers" in Damascus on 9 January; carried within the news reports following the newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shar'] We studied various aspects of political and economic cooperation among the Arab states which signed the Damascus Declaration. We also discussed some details regarding the scopes of this cooperation in the coming phase. Tomorrow morning, we will focus on the peace process in particular, especially concerning the anticipated meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. This is because the ministers have expressed profound interest in both this summit and its results, which will be reflected on the overall regional situation.

[Reporter] What issues will be discussed in the anticipated summit between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad?

[Al-Shar'] Naturally, the peace process will be the leading issue. Also expected for discussion are bilateral relations and the overall situation in the region.

[Reporter] What are your expectations about this summit?

[Al-Shar'] We hope the summit will yield important results.

[Reporter] Your Excellency the Minister: How effective will the first meeting, held today, be regarding the implementation of the Damascus Declaration? What articles will be highlighted in this session?

[Al-Shar'] There will be emphasis on economic and political cooperation. As for security cooperation, it will be addressed on a bilateral basis between the Arab states which signed the Damascus Declaration.

[Reporter] With regard to the Syrian-U.S. summit, do you expect a breakthrough in the peace talks?

[Al-Shar'] We hope so.

[Reporter, first part of question unheard] ...achieve tangible results?

[Al-Shar'] We hope so.

[Reporter] Mr. 'Amr Musa, what is the atmosphere of the meetings held?

[Musa] The atmosphere is extremely good.

[Reporter] Has any emphasis been placed on implementing the Damascus Declaration?

[Musa] Yes, of course. There has been emphasis on implementing the Declaration and on continued consultations and joint action.

[Reporter] What about implementing the military and economic articles?

[Musa] We are now discussing several matters which will implement the Damascus Declaration and which may benefit the general situation in the Arab world.

[Reporter] Is there a mechanism to implement this declaration?

[Musa] We will discuss such a mechanism.

Qatari Minister on Arab Issues

NC1001080994 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, in Damascus, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Jundi] Reports from Damascus say the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states will discuss Arab reconciliation.

[Al Thani] The agenda is open for discussion. We hope this subject will be discussed. Qatar's view on it is known.

[Al-Jundi] What is Qatar's position?

[Al Thani] Qatar unreservedly favors any Arab reconciliation and closing Arab ranks.

[Al-Jundi] Does this meeting of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers have particular significance in light of the recent Middle East developments?

[Al Thani] Perhaps the discussion of peace developments is one of the most important topics at the meeting. But there are other important issues to be discussed. We hope we can achieve positive results.

[Al-Jundi] Speaking of the situation in the Middle East, is the Gulf Cooperation Council now inclined to lift the Arab boycott against Israel?

[Al Thani] The Arab boycott was introduced by an Arab League decision. I believe the Arab League is the right venue at which a decision on removing the boycott should be made. I am discussing the primary boycott, the first-degree boycott. As regards other degrees of boycott, Qatar will do what is necessary when the other negotiating tracks, notably the Syrian and Lebanese, are advanced.

[Al-Jundi] But Qatar was the first Gulf state to begin telephone contacts with Israel. Is this an action distinct from any by the Gulf Cooperation Council states?

[Al Thani] I cannot discuss distinction. We assumed this position and others can judge it. But we made the decision for humanitarian reasons. We opened telephone links with the West Bank and Gaza for humanitarian reasons. There are many Palestinians in Qatar who want to contact their families directly. It is a humanitarian issue.

[Al-Jundi] What can the Gulf Cooperation Council offer to support the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al Thani] As you know, the Gulf Cooperation Council has helped the Palestinian cause a great deal. I believe that if the Council helped in the days of war and estrangement, it will spare no effort to help during the peace process.

[Al-Jundi] Have you in the Gulf agreed to provide specific amounts of money to support the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Al Thani] No, we have agreed on no such thing.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Al Thani] Thank you.

Foreign Ministers Depart Damascus

JN1001171894 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Damascus, 10 Jan (SANA)—The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states and the Gulf Cooperation Council secretary general left Damascus today after attending the two-day, eighth meeting of the Damascus Declaration member states.

They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the ambassadors of the Damascus Declaration member states.

IRNA Views 'Failure' of Meeting

LD1101085294 Tehran IRNA in English 1923 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Damascus, Jan 10, IRNA—The meeting of foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) and those of Egypt and Syria ended here today without any concrete results.

In the two-day meeting, members of the PGCC did not reach an agreement for implementing of an article of Damascus Agreement which calls for cooperation with Syria and Egypt. The Damascus Agreement which was signed in the aftermath of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq envisaged economic, political and military cooperation between the PGCC member states with Syria and Egypt.

The agreement provided for the deployment of Egyptian and Syrian forces in the Persian Gulf for maintaining the security of the region. However, some of the PGCC members, having signed bilateral pacts with the U.S.A. and some of the western countries, are no longer inclined to see the Egyptian and Syrian forces in the region.

The failure of the meeting is viewed by some political observers here to have stricken a serious blow to the Damascus Agreement.

Islamic Affairs

Palestinian Negotiator Briefs ICO Leader

LD1001214594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Jan (KUNA)—Fayez al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, met here this afternoon Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] secretary general.

A press statement issued by the ICO General Secretariat said that al-Husayni acquainted Dr. al-Ghabid with the recent developments of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and the conditions through which the Palestinian people, and particularly in holy Jerusalem, were going.

Al-Husayni affirmed the important role played by the Islamic Conference Organization in supporting and backing the Palestinian people, working diligently for the return of holy Jerusalem to Palestinian sovereignty and confronting Israeli expansionist plans.

For his part, the organization's secretary general affirmed the organization's principled and constant stance towards the Palestinian cause and the Islamic nation's support to the Palestinian people in order for them to regain their just rights and establish their state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Queried on Peace, Ties With Jordan

NC1101103694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p 9

[Interview with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] How can the Palestinians find a way out of their crisis after Israel's adherence to the Cairo document and its insistence that this document is a common denominator of understanding between the Palestinians and Israel?

[Qaddumi] We are not in crisis, but we have a difficult problem before us. Undoubtedly, continuing negotiations will get us out of that crisis as long as Israel insists on a literal translation of the Declaration of Principles agreed upon last September.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you believe Israel is lying when it claims that the agreement reached in the Cairo talks last week was a document of understanding between the two sides and not merely ideas presented to both sides?

[Qaddumi] Yes, it is lying. Israel is used to faking facts, and the world and the international community must understand this point. There was no document and no agreement. There were discussions and ideas were presented. Israel is playing games and denying everything that was agreed upon in the agreement. The agreement stipulates withdrawal as a major issue. Israel is stalling and wants to give away scattered pieces of territory here and there. It also wants to control the crossings. This is not withdrawal. If Israel's intentions are honest, it should adhere to the agreement; in other words, it needs to withdraw early on.

[Al-Sa'id] The faltering in the talks might threaten the negotiations. And isn't Israel blaming the PLO for not adhering to the Cairo agreement?

[Qaddumi] No agreement was reached in the first place for us to adhere to. Cairo merely discussed Israeli ideas that were proposed. In general, we realized we have difficult negotiations ahead when we started the peace process in Madrid. Israel is faking facts and claiming that this territory is disputed territory. We insisted that it should withdraw from these territories so that the Palestinian identity—the real identity of the territories—would be reinstated on condition that discussion of the thorny issues is postponed.

Withdrawal is the basic element in this agreement. If Israel does not withdraw, the whole agreement is threatened with collapse due to Israel's belligerence and nonadherence to the real texts of this agreement. Israel stalls and reads the facts backward. It has also gone back on the major principle that stipulates that the land is Palestinian, which means the Palestinian people's sovereignty over it is the core issue. The responsibility of the international community is a direct responsibility, especially as regards those who patronize the peace march, that is, President Clinton.

[Al-Sa'id] But Israel still clings to the crossings.

[Qaddumi] Israel's adherence to the crossings is contrary to the texts. It has no right to supervise who comes and goes, because this land it is discussing is Palestinian. Israel must adhere to the agreement of principles governing the transitional stage. Withdrawal does not give it the right to continue being responsible for the movement of people and goods in and out of the area from which it withdraws.

[Al-Sa'id] There are claims that Israel insists on controlling the crossings merely to meet Jordan's wishes; Jordan is said to prefer the crossings under Israeli control than under Palestinian control to guarantee their security.

[Qaddumi] In our political path, we have become accustomed to having politicians like Kissinger tell us one thing and the Arab countries another. These are the methods Israel is using in its negotiations. It says things that are different from the facts. It leaks these rumors to one Arab party or another. I do not believe that Jordan prefers to have Israel control the crossings over the Palestinians. I cannot even imagine that Jordan would publicize something like this. Jordan is part of the Arab territory, we are a part of the Arab territory, and our interests are the same. There is no difference between the Palestinian and Jordanian people. These are mere names giving an identity for political reasons. We should have no differences with Jordan no matter what we might hear every now and then. We have joint interests with Jordan.

[Al-Sa'id] We interpreted your late coordination with Jordan as reflecting your differences.

[Qaddumi] It has nothing to do with any dispute with Jordan. We are brothers. We tried right from the start to ensure an Israeli withdrawal so that we could sign and coordinate with Jordan on a clear-cut basis.

[Al-Sa'id] According to some people, the United States appears as if it has colluded with Israel to weaken the negotiating position with the Palestinians.

[Qaddumi] The United States knows its responsibilities. It is the principal sponsor of this process. The United States and President Clinton know that any failure of the process would mean the failure of U.S. policy.

[Al-Sa'id] The Geneva meeting slated to be held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton could be a prelude for a thaw between Syria and Israel. Could this reflect negatively on the Palestinian track and find you lagging behind the other Arab tracks?

[Qaddumi] On the contrary. We believe this meeting would be in our interest. As Palestinians and Arabs, there must be progress on the Syrian track. The settlement must be just and comprehensive, not simply progress on the Palestinian track. We are doing our best

to achieve progress on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks. Syria shoulders great responsibilities and advocates a comprehensive solution. Syria must search for a comprehensive solution because it has responsibilities toward the other brothers.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the acts of violence and killings in the occupied Arab territories that Israel is using as a pretext to prove that the PLO can't maintain security and control the situation?

[Qaddumi] These acts are a result of Israel's terrorism inside the occupied territories. Israel is resorting to this to prove that security is absent and that the PLO can't cope with the security issues.

We must not be too good-hearted, because the road to hell is paved with good intentions. We must realize that while there is one Israeli soldier on our land the Palestinian people must resist. The opposition must continue as long as Israeli soldiers occupy the Palestinian land.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the PLO's democracy amid the current numerous differences?

[Qaddumi] We have democracy so it's natural to have differences. It is the right of every faction to express its opinion freely and frankly. We want positive and objective criticism for the sake of building something. Praise be to God, all the factions abide by this. They are criticizing particular positions but they are not killing people.

'Arafat Said To Divert Funds To Fight Factions

NC1101084294 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 31 Dec 93 p 22

[Text] Palestinian circles have revealed that 95 Palestinian embassies are suffering financial crises and only small amounts of the funding they require are being transferred to them. The circles say that an unannounced decision by 'Arafat stipulated that financial allocations for these embassies should be cut so that the funds can be invested in European banks and used for fighting internal battles with the opposition Palestinian factions.

'Arafat Discusses Peace With UK Delegation

LD1001175094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received a British parliamentary delegation on 8 January. The meeting reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process as well as the efforts to move it forward and implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement on the ground.

The social and economic situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and ways of supporting and developing the occupied Palestinian territories were also reviewed.

'Ashrawi Urges More Democracy in PLO Leadership

AU1001135894 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 10 Jan 94 p 2

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi by Ben Segenreich in Tel Aviv; date not given: "Against a Monolithic Authority"]

[Text] [Segenreich] Is your refusal to accept a public office meant as a criticism of PLO leader 'Arafat?

['Ashrawi] It is not a matter of individuals. We have a leadership that has not lived in its own country, with its own people, with a system of accountability, of control, and critical commentary for a long time. It has to change from being a liberation movement to a governmental system. The working methods and thinking patterns of the past are no longer valid. An internal reform is necessary.

This transition will be very painful, and a number of mistakes have already been made. During the next phase we must ensure that the new government respects citizens' rights and is truly democratic, that we do not follow the example of many Third World countries wherein a monolithic authority puts itself, not the people, at the center.

[Segenreich] Is 'Arafat accumulating too many offices, too much power?

['Ashrawi] Of course, the PLO leadership should be more open and more democratic. It should decentralize and enable co-determination on the basis of talents and capacities. The old decisionmaking process is no longer valid. We need efficiency, openness, and control.

Whether the PLO is capable of effecting this change remains to be seen. The real test will come after the introduction of self-rule.

[Segenreich] A group of Palestinian businessmen and a delegation led by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi recently presented suggestions for reforms in Tunis. Do you support this pressure on 'Arafat?

['Ashrawi] I support the principle. Some time ago, a group of Palestinians from the occupied territories—mainly delegates to the negotiations—went to Tunis and worked out suggestions and structures there, such as criteria for appointing people to public offices. These suggestions were presented to 'Arafat; he agreed to them—but, unfortunately they have not been put into practice.

[Segenreich] Should the key positions be given to people from among the PLO leadership in Tunis, or to local leaders?

['Ashrawi] There should be a good mix. The people who have permanently lived in a coherent Palestinian society should get an effective say. They are entitled to this because they have worked here under the most difficult

circumstances and have gained the people's confidence. No group should exert power at the cost of another.

[Segenreich] Is it right that just before Palestinian autonomy should come into effect there have been little preparations, and there is almost a state of chaos?

['Ashrawi] This is an exaggeration. There is no chaos, but we are not all that well-prepared, either. Some administrative authorities and economic institutions are already in existence, but they are not prepared to such an extent that we could take over business tomorrow. It will be a difficult process, we will have to grow into the job.

We will have to make use of the technical knowledge of those who worked in the Israeli military administration, we will also have to use the enormous human resources of Palestinians all over the world and use their talents in establishing our nation, without any nepotism.

[Segenreich] What do you think the schedule will be for introducing autonomy? Some people say that the necessary time should be spent over this, since a good agreement is more important than a good schedule.

['Ashrawi] A flexible schedule would be very dangerous. The withdrawal of Israeli troops should be concluded by 13 April, even if it is begun with a delay. And the elections have to be held before 13 July. This is the test of both sides' credibility and of the real democratic nature of the new regime.

Fatah Hawks Oppose 'Nonessential' Use of Arms

TA1001162694 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 94 p 2

[ITIM Report]

[Text] Shots were fired in the early evening yesterday at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost in Rafah's Tall Sultan neighborhood, but did not cause either casualties or damage. The soldiers returned fire.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine took responsibility for the attempted attack and claimed that several soldiers were wounded. But, to repeat, there were no casualties.

A Fatah Hawks leaflet disseminated yesterday in the Gaza Strip called for an end to use of arms when nonessential. The leaflet threatened to confiscate the weapons and punish the perpetrators.

The cases referred to are shots fired during festivities and taking money from residents under threat of arms while pretending to belong to Fatah or other organizations. During festivities marking Fatah's establishment 10 days ago wanted men and residents fired in the air out of happiness. At least five armed terrorists were later arrested and all were freed after senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers intervened.

Arab sources note that groups of criminals are roaming around pretending to be wanted men and are demanding "taxes" from shopkeepers and wealthy people in the Strip. In some cases, wanted men are also making a living that way.

Hamas' Ghawshah Sees 'Year of War' Ahead

PM1101094094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi on interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), has stressed that the initiative made toward Israel before the end of last year by the " 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions," the movement's military wing, is "genuine and reflects our self-confidence." However, he pointed out that Hamas is not presenting itself as an alternative to anyone. "Those are delusions."

While he pointed out that this year will be a "year of war, not peace," Ghawshah expressed Hamas' willingness to engage in a dialogue with all parties. But he excluded the Jews, because they are offering no "concessions" to the other side.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH Ghawshah stressed that the statement made by the movement's guide, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, on participation in the elections "cannot be corroborated." He pointed out that Hamas is committed to its position on participation in any legislative elections, except administrative self-rule elections, "on which our position has been decided." He revealed that the Syrian Government has offered some facilities to Hamas. He appealed to Arab governments and Iran to provide financial aid, "because their positions will be affected if we are hit."

In the interview conducted with him in Damascus Ghawshah said that Hamas' position on participation in the self-rule elections and the institutions arising from it "is clear, namely the complete refusal to take part in these elections at all." He pointed out that the statement on this question by the movement's guide, Shaykh Yasin, cannot be corroborated. "Nevertheless, he spoke about a legislative council for the Palestinian people—which we are all demanding, but in isolation from any political plan." He added that "Hamas will participate in any elections that are not political. We have always participated in these elections and will continue to do so, because we do not want to abandon the movement's positions and the Islamic presence, which should be secured whenever possible."

On the movement's willingness to enter into a truce or dialogue with Israel, Hamas' official spokesman said that the " 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions'" initiative "was genuine and true, and it reflects self-confidence. This is attested by the fact that the Israelis considered it a humiliation for them." However, he pointed out that this initiative "does not indicate that we want to present ourselves as an alternative" to the PLO and its leader,

Yasir 'Arafat. He said: "Those are delusions; we are not offering ourselves as an alternative to anyone." He stressed the movement's willingness to engage in a dialogue with all parties. "We consider ourselves in a state of war with the enemy. And when we make a move, we proceed from our Islamic principles. Our setting conditions for them (Israelis) is a continuation of the Islamic tradition in the relationship with the enemies." He pointed out that the important question in any proposal "is securing the Palestinian' interests without any concessions, and this initiative did contain all these meanings."

Asked whether Hamas is going to put forward other initiatives with conditions different from those set in the past, Ghawshah said that "truce in wars is a recognized thing, but it differs from the present capitulationist scheme (the Gaza-Jericho agreement). We are for a temporary tactical truce in which there is a gain for us." However, he said that a dialogue is possible with all, "except the Jews. We know their mentality, and no Jew can make concessions."

On the self-rule agreement and its future, Ghawshah said that "it is doomed to perish. Anyone who reads it will realize this." He added that "'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions'" operations have brought to the surface "a very important question, namely the impossibility of coexistence with settlers." He pointed out that 'Arafat has suffered "a nervous breakdown." He said that the Palestinian people will rally around those opposed to the agreement and that "1994 will be a year of war and struggle, not peace."

Ghawshah denied that Hamas backtracked on its position when it agreed to form the leading committee of the "Alliance of Palestinian Forces" on the basis of two representatives for each organization. He said: "Our position was that, if we want to form a front to implement an ambitious political program, we must respect the influence of every faction. We also adhered to the foundation of our alliance, and our decision to agree to this formation (in the alliance program announced the day before yesterday) was less than the ambitious ceiling." Replying to the claims that Hamas is not strong outside [the occupied territories], he stressed that "if free elections are held in any areas in which the Palestinians are present, we will win them. The Islamic tendency is the common tendency, and we are not scared of any impartial elections." He pointed to the results of the parliamentary elections in Jordan and those of the Engineers Union elections, "in which we won 38 seats out of 42."

He said that one of the reasons for Hamas' strength inside is "its reliance on the young generation—which is a problem facing (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin. Every day we have a new, young, and secret leadership."

On the movement's financial sources, Ghawshah declined to name a specific quarter. He said: "We are pursuing a policy of austerity, relying on charity and donations from Arab states and Turkish, Arab, and Iranian businessmen, and a receipt is provided." He appealed for Arab financial aid, "but only provided it is not linked with political positions, because we receive decisions from our leadership only." He pointed out that this is what has made it difficult to "determine the authority making these decisions in Hamas, as 'Arafat has looked for this authority in Sudan, Jordan, and Iran." He added that he would not express any objection if Iran—together with the Arab countries—supports the movement materially and politically, "because we are working for their interests, and if we are hit, their positions will be affected." He pointed out that the Syrian leadership "is opening the door for us, and we are interested in Damascus' position, and they (the Syrians) see us as a strong tendency."

Ghawshah expected a "war to break out in the region if the bilateral negotiations within the peace process fail." He pointed to "an integration between the honorable operations" carried out by Hizballah from southern Lebanon and the military operations carried by the "'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions" in the occupied territories, But "the political program is completely different between us and there is no coordination between the two sides." He said that the "Islamic Jihad" movement (led by Fathi al-Shiqaqi) is influenced by Iran "and the victories of the Iranian revolution." He pointed to "unionist plans" being conducted between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

U.S. Position on PLO-Israeli Talks Questioned

JN1101082294 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1827 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Station commentary: "The United States Is Not Interested"]

[Text] The United States is the sole world superpower at present. This fact is bound to place grave responsibilities upon it, given the serious position it is occupying. Hence, it is peculiar for it to act just like small states, which are content with engaging themselves in tit for tat to avenge old enemies. What is currently taking place shows that the United States wants to enjoy its current position as the world's sole superpower without shouldering the responsibilities this entails. This has been manifested in what is taking place in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Middle East. For the Clinton administration believes that the current PLO-Israeli negotiations are none of its business. What does this mean? Does such a position reflect a serious attitude? This indisputably reflects the abandonment of responsibilities toward the peace process, which supposedly continues to be sponsored by the United States. Moreover, it is the United States which continues to persistently enlist support for the Declaration of Principles signed between the PLO and Israel. The United States deemed this agreement the first diplomatic success of the current administration. What about the White House ceremony? What about the invitations extended for the first donor conference designed to secure pledges of aid for developing the territories sabotaged by the Israeli occupation?

It is impossible for Washington to see its role as that of a witness at a signing ceremony as if it were a protocol official. Likewise, no one would expect Washington to say that it has nothing to do with the implementation of the agreement, just because it was drafted in Oslo. It is to be recalled that it did nothing to deter those who called the Palestinian-Israeli agreement the Washington agreement. Many of those who believed their eyes during the signing ceremony still call the agreement the Washington agreement. Does all this mean that the full partner's role is to be undertaken by Norway? This allegedly objective U.S. impartiality reflects a favorable response to Israeli wishes. It is not objective at all. It is true that Washington is still concerned with the other tracks of the negotiations. However, the experience of the past two years of negotiations has shown that Washington, at times, impeded, rather than aided the peace process. If the Arab negotiators are to speak frankly about this issue, they would say that the five rabbis, the U.S. Middle East peace talks coordinators, at times, wanted for Israel more than it wanted for itself. Indeed, the effort required to achieve this objective was not that difficult. This effort sought to preclude any coordination among the Arab negotiators.

The conclusion the Americans might have reached in the aftermath of the Oslo agreement is that the complex of the Israelis unilaterally handling the Palestinians has been, at last, resolved without their intervention, and without their having to provide any guarantees. This thinking cannot be classified as that of a superpower. It has to be recalled that all Arabs, be they supporters or opponents of the Oslo agreement, believe that Washington's role was brought under the limelight when the agreement was signed, and that this role cannot end at that. Although this agreement is flawed, nothing precludes efforts to rectify it. It is a mistake to attempt to address a major conflict involving peoples' rights and the sufferings of successive Arab generations with a mind-set that believes that the strong must emerge as the winner, because it had the skills required to seize the others' territory and rights. Such views should not be espoused by a superpower, for we are in the year 1994. What is more serious than Washington shirking its responsibilities toward the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is that international parties will follow in its footsteps. Consequently, the agreement will fail to enjoy international recognition. We have seen signs of this eventuality. Washington might have failed to see the negative impact of its position. No harm would be done if we remind it that the Arabs were expected to bear heavy burdens for peace. What then would be the consequences of sabotaging an agreement that was concluded out of despair in the first place? Has Washington thought of this, or is it not interested in this, either? It is hoped that the United States will pursue historic solutions on the remaining tracks, instead of seeking to force settlements and take advantage of adverse circumstances. For if it does, it, as a superpower, can then give its ally, Israel, a model to be emulated. That is, it can produce true peace. For, this is better than encouraging Israel to employ tricks that only befit war criminals.

Construction Firm Proposes $30-Billion Project

NC1101112294 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 11 (AFP)—A Palestinian construction group put forward Tuesday [11 January] "a giant national project" to build 13 towns on the West Bank and Gaza Strip at a cost of some 30 billion dollars over the next decade.

Three cities in Gaza would each house 250,000 people and another 10 developments on the West Bank a total of 500,000, said 'Isa 'Awdah, a director of the Philistia building firm.

"To erect a strong and durable economy we see that there is the need for a giant national project which can concentrate all the Palestinian forces ... [ellipsis as received] and constitute the backbone of this economy," he told a press conference.

'Awdah predicted the private sector plan would create 150,000 jobs.

More than 600,000 of the 780,000 Palestinians living in Gaza are considered refugees by the United Nations and 330,000 of them live in camps.

On the West Bank, nearly 480,000 of the 1.2 million Palestinians are refugees, 125,000 of them in UN-run camps.

'Awdah called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Israel and the international community to support the project, saying 40 percent of the financing would have to be foreign investment and cheap loans.

According to Hasan Abu-Libdah, in charge of the PLO's technical committee preparing for autonomy, the housing situation in the occupied territories is catastrophic.

An average of nine people live in each house or apartment on the Gaza Strip and 7.5 people in each unit on the West Bank.

Abu-Libdah estimated that 120,000 new units were needed each year to bring down the number to six people per house by the year 2000.

However, Ibrahim Sha'ban, head of the Palestinian Housing Council, hit out at the project. "This will reflect negatively on Palestinian credibility before donor countries," he said, calling for coordination.

The council is directing a 20-million-dollar European Community funded housing project in Gaza.

Philistia, based in Jerusalem, has 75 employees engaged mainly in construction projects in Israel.

Algeria

FFS To Boycott National Dialogue Conference

LD1001151894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The date of the national conference—25-26 January—is approaching, and the political arena is ready to decide on the participants, two weeks before the date of the conference. A spokesman for the National Dialogue Commission said that the conference would not be a conference of parties. The conference was the axis of the latest party contacts and statements.

The FFS [Socialist Forces Front] has announced that it will not participate in the national conference scheduled for 25 and 26 January. This stance was contained in a statement issued today by the National Executive Committee of the FFS.

In its analysis of the general situation and the reasons behind its nonparticipation, it said that there was a return to the unilateral system, the one language and the one thought, without any consideration for the Amazighi [Berber] peculiarities. The FFS added that it was working for the restoration of hope for Algerians, as the statement put it.

On the other hand, some parties are holding meetings in the form of blocs for consultation and coordination before the convening of the conference. Yesterday, a tripartite meeting was held between the FLN [National Liberation Front], HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria. The meeting, which was held at FLN headquarters, was devoted to the preparation of a draft document containing the measures, methods, and means for making the national dialogue successful, to be sent to the Higher State Council [HCE] and the National Dialogue Commission. On this issue, our colleague Brahim Zewash telephoned FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri, who answered at the beginning of this short conversation a question about the tripartite meeting:

[Begin recording] [Mehri] Contacts were made between four parties—HAMAS, al-Nahdah, the Movement for Democracy, and the FLN. It began within the framework of the suggestion that we submitted to the HCE and the National Dialogue Commission to hold a tripartite meeting to study some of the measures that will help to make the national dialogue successful. Naturally, the suggestion was rejected but the issue remained, as we thought that it was beneficial that we should continue our meetings and our consultations as part of the measures that are apt to help make the national dialogue successful by expanding it, on the one hand, and by restoring assurances to society, on the other.

I believe that we have reached a common ground that will be communicated within the next few days to the HCE and to the National Dialogue Commission, and will be published.

[Zewash] Can you tell us the broad lines of this common ground?

[Mehri] I prefer, as we have agreed, that we should wait until the petition is published.

[Zewash] In other words, is there an attempt by these parties to get closer, either because of the FLN [word indistinct] or because we are noticing that these parties have participated in the multi-sided meetings?

[Mehri] No, the subject of the meeting is defined and all the sides are in agreement that we meet only on this point. Each party has its own independent ideas with regard to the remaining issues. We did not attempt to coordinate our stances with regard to all issues.

[Zewash] In other words, does not the FLN's proposal, manifested in a meeting of the political parties—the HCE and the National Dialogue Commission—mean that there is a somewhat exclusion of the social and economic front?

[Mehri] There is no exclusion of any side. The HCE and the National Dialogue Council have placed us in a group called the Group of Six Parties—we move within this group. We are not the ones who called for the dialogue so that we can exclude others. The side that called for the dialogue is either the HCE—when it conducted the dialogue—or the National Dialogue Council. On the contrary, we are for expanding the dialogue.

[Zewash] Abdelhamid, two weeks remain before the convening of the national conference, and as you have not participated in the recent meeting, is that not considered an obstruction of the national conference?

[Mehri] No, we were not committed to attend the national conference, irrespective of the circumstances. From the first day, when the idea of convening a national conference was suggested, we asked: Will the conference be a phase of the dialogue or the conclusion of the dialogue? We were told: It is the conclusion of the dialogue. We said: Therefore, we should first agree on the content of the conference. If we agree, we will go to the conference, but if we do not agree on the content, then we will not attend.

[Zewash] What are the proposals that the FLN can submit in order to participate in the upcoming national conference?

[Mehri] This is a long issue, because a year and a half ago we submitted a large number of proposals, and, so far, no proposal has been taken into consideration.

[Zewash] According to (?close) sources that attended the tripartite meeting yesterday, there was an attempt to bring about the participation of the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front].

[Mehri] We are confined to work within the group that the National Dialogue Commission collectively called, and we are moving within this group in order to avoid

any misinterpretation. But the question of the participation of the faction that remained in existence following the dissolution of the FIS is now naturally recognized by all.

[Zewash] The Central Committee of the FLN will be holding an emergency meeting in the middle of this month, and it appears—according to press sources—that there are differences within the FLN. Is this true?

[Mehri] This is a healthy sign. We do not claim that we are working in one voice. All our resolutions were adopted following a discussion of all views, and we will discuss all views. There is no complexity in this. Even in the darkest of circumstances we held meetings that were open to journalists, and in these meetings we held discussions openly, but this deep and frank discussion among ourselves made the attitude of the FLN characterized by responsibility and effectiveness.

[Zewash] Will the upcoming meeting of the FLN Central Committee be open to the national press?

[Mehri] The issue is being discussed, and as yet, no final decision has been taken. [end recording]

Dembri Receives Western Saharan President

LD0801202594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Salah Dembri today received Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, the president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, at the ministry's headquarters.

The talks dealt with bilateral ties and the latest developments in the Saharan issue.

New Governor Appointed for Algiers

LD1001105694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Salim Saadi today introduced Ahmed Houri as the new governor of Algiers in the presence of cadres from the Interior Ministry and the governorate. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Returns From Damascus, Views Meetings

NC1001193494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1758 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo this evening from Damascus after a two-day visit during which he participated in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries, which concluded earlier today. He said that the meetings were good and that discussions dealt with implementing recommendations, maintaining the declaration, and acting within its framework. In an arrival statement, he noted that the foreign ministers also discussed the situation in the region and promoting Arab action.

On the meeting of the foreign ministers with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Musa said that the eight countries declared their support for the peace process on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. They expressed their support for the Syrian position, the return of the Golan heights, and continuing efforts within the framework of the peace process as launched in Madrid on the basis of land for peace.

Musa noted that during the Damascus meeting participants supported the Syrian stance on future moves and expressed wishes for the success of the upcoming summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton in Geneva on 16 January.

Musa said that the meetings of the Damascus Declaration countries will continue; the next meeting will be held in Kuwait in six months. He noted that he will submit a report to President Mubarak on the results of these meetings.

Gunmen Kill Police Officer, Driver in Asyut

NC1001191894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—A responsible security source has stated that unidentified gunmen opened fire at the vehicle of Public Security Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Khalil Tuni while driving from his home in the Na'ilah Khatun area in Asyut at 1105 today. He and his driver, Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al Salih, were martyred in the shooting. The source said that the commands of the Asyut Security Directorate and the State Security Intelligence Department and various investigation teams went to the scene of the shooting along with a team from the criminal laboratory to investigate. Police agencies have sealed off the area and are searching for the criminals.

Arrests of Suspected Fundamentalists Reported

NC1001135694 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Asyut, Egypt, Jan 10 (AFP)—Suspected Islamic militants shot dead a police officer and his bodyguard in Asyut in southern Egypt on Monday [10 January], police said. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Khalil had just left home when he was gunned down by several suspected militants, who then fled the scene, police said.

His bodyguard, Ahmad Mahmud, died of bullet wounds in hospital an hour later.

Security forces arrested 14 suspected Muslim fundamentalists in southern Egypt on Sunday charged with involvement in recent attacks on policemen in Asyut, 380 kilometres (236 miles) south of Cairo, the AL-AHRAM daily said in its Monday edition.

The detainees included Hamadah Nassar, who heads the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in Abnub in Asyut province, as well as a key member of the group's military wing, 'Adil 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Rahim, the official paper said, citing police.

Meanwhile in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria security forces arrested an Islamic militant as he was preparing to set fire to a cinema, police said.

Mu'tamid Mahrus was arrested on Sunday after an employee of the Laila cinema saw him placing a bag under his seat, which was found to contain three bottles filled with inflammable liquid.

Mahrus, a grocer and known Islamic militant, later admitted planning to set fire to the cinema during a performance, police said. [passage omitted]

Court Hears Defense in 'Abd-al-Rahman Case

NC1001193894 Cairo MENA in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, Jan 10 (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court today listened to the defence counsel in the case in which 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman (now in the United States) and 47 others are accused of inciting crowds outside a mosque in al-Fayyum.

The court will continue to hear the counsel for the defence tomorrow morning.

The argument of the defence counsel was that differences between religious groups and the systems of government have existed for a long time since the French expedition came to Egypt.

Representative of the state prosecution said one of the accused who had been at large has been apprehended and was behind bars at today's hearing.

Security Searches Tunisian Plane for Explosives

NC1001223994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Security authorities at Cairo Airport this evening thoroughly searched the passengers of a Tunisian airliner on both its flights from Cairo to Tunis and back. The Tunisian security authorities sent an urgent cable to those at Cairo Airport warning that certain terrorists may place explosives on the Tunisian airliner on its return flight from Cairo to Tunis. The security authorities were notified by the Tunisian airlines office at the airport.

The security authorities took strict measures. They requested that the airliner taxi to a special runway and search teams and explosive experts checked the plane and passengers but found nothing. The authorities also took the necessary protection measures for the plane that took off from Cairo on its ordinary flight with 63 passengers.

Omani Minister Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC1001220394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo from Damascus this evening on a one-day visit on the first leg of a tour that will include Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Yemen. He said that he is carrying an oral message from Sultan Qabus to President Mubarak. [words indistinct] to exchange views with Arab brothers and discuss current important issues. He said that he will explain his country's views on Arab issues to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC1101092594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the meeting.

Writer Views Lessons of Algerian Crisis

NC1001204894

[Editorial report] In a 3,000-word article entitled "A Bundle of Lessons From Algeria" on page 9 of Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 4 January, writer Fahmi Huwaydi views the events in Algeria in 1993. He notes that the 1993 "bitter harvest" in Algeria is full of "precious lessons that we must examine one after the other" to learn the "lessons and examples that are of interest to us all, without exception."

The first lesson to be learned from the Algerian crisis, the writer notes, is that "violence generates violence and blind repression serves as a fuel for terrorism." After reviewing the events that triggered the crisis in Algeria, Huwaydi adds: "When the authority realized rather belatedly—20 months after the start of the bloody confrontations—that it was necessary to reopen the door of dialogue with the moderates in the Islamic Salvation Front, the front's leaders detained in prisons since the beginning of 1992 had almost lost control of their elements abroad, who were scattered and distributed among various groups. Worse still, the armed group rejected the dialogue and vowed to continue the fighting until the end." Now, he adds, secret contacts are under way to find moderates within the Islamic Front to find a way out of the crisis.

The second lesson, he adds, is that "Arabism and Islam are the core of the conflict." He points out that the Algerian government crackdown on the Islamic Front was not in defense of democracy but rather against the front's affiliation with Arabism, Islam, and independence from French hegemony. He notes that "in the name of defending the republic and a secular society, a motley of intellectuals and politicians has given their full

backing to the policy of repression and elimination by depicting whoever is affiliated with Islam as a terrorist."

Continuing his article, Huwaydi points out that the third lesson is that the "blackout has unleashed the forces of evil and provided a chance for penetration." He notes that the ban on political activity has made "clandestine activity" the only alternative, thus giving various elements the chance to move in the dark knowing for certain that the fingers of accusation will point to the obvious "defendant, in this case the Salvation Front. He refers to a theory in Algeria arguing that "suspicious quarters" are working hard to create chaos in the country.

The fourth lesson advanced by Huwaydi is that the "crisis has weakened the state and forced it to bow." Noting that the crisis has paralyzed the Algerian economy and forced the prime minister to announce that the country is unable to service its foreign debts, the government had no alternative but to sign an "unfavorable" agreement to reschedule its debts and acquiesce to the "harsh" terms imposed by the IMF to finalize the rescheduling.

The fifth lesson to be learned from the crisis, Huwaydi adds, is that it has resulted in a "decline in Western support." He cites a French paper as saying that the Western governments backed the current regime in Algeria as the "lesser of two evils" compared to the fundamentalists, but now the West is wondering if its policy was correct.

Embargo Forces Workers To Return From Libya

NC1001220194 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 94 p 7

[Mu'tazz al-Hadidi report]

[Text] official sources in the Manpower and Employment Ministry have disclosed that approximately 500,000 Egyptian workers have returned from Libya because of the negative effects of the economic embargo imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriyah after the Lockerbie crisis. These sources pointed out that the Egyptian workers in Libya are faced with two options: Either to accept transforming their work contracts to local contracts and thus lose housing and transportation allowances or to return to Egypt. The Foreign Ministry has formed a committee of all concerned agencies to request the Security Council to speed up efforts to pay compensation to the countries that are harmed by the continuing embargo imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Libya

Al-Bishari Views Lockerbie Case, al-Kikhya Interviewed on Ties With U.S., Egypt

JN1001155194 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p 27

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, envoy to the Arab League and "general coordinator for Egyptian-Libyan relations," by an unidentified reporter in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Where do relations, and both direct and indirect dialogue, stand between you and the United States?

[Al-Bishari] Some fraternal countries, like Egypt and Tunisia, are engaged in persistent efforts in this regard. We are pinning great hopes on the constant and important efforts being made by President Mubarak to address this issue. We hope that these efforts will bear fruit. Hence, our contacts with the United States have not been interrupted, thwarted, or suspended. All that there is to it is that the issue has become complicated after the tightening of the sanctions against us. The issue has become part of efforts by big powers to finalize some arrangements in the region, given the interests they have in it. This has been manifested in what is taking place in Palestine, the calls made for the launching of a Middle East market, as well as the situation in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Gulf, and Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Now that the key witness in the Lockerbie affair has retracted his testimony, what is your position on this issue? How can you take advantage of this new development?

[Al-Bishari] We are trying to make international and regional organizations informed about this new development as quickly as possible. We will benefit from this development. Likewise, we will keep the permanent members of the UN Security Council, particularly the PRC, informed of this new development, given its weight at the UN General Assembly, as well as its convictions regarding Libya's innocence. This new development may also influence public opinion, as well as the policies of nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council, which were pressured to vote against us.

[Reporter] Why did Libya receive the Serbian foreign minister at a time when barbaric massacres against the Bosnian people are being escalated? Doesn't this undermine your credibility with the Muslim world?

[Al-Bishari] Libya is making honest efforts to end the calamity of the Bosnian people. We believe that it is necessary to hold direct talks with the major party to the crisis, namely the Serbs, if we are to influence them and induce them to end the massacres against Muslims. This is a serious effort on our part. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Libya was reported to have had a hand in the disappearance of onetime Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, and that the Libyan Government had a vested interest in his disappearance. Does what happened prejudice your relations with the Egyptians?

[Al-Bishari] We are as surprised as the next man by his disappearance. We do not regard him as an enemy. If anything, there has not been any break in his relations with Libyan Government officials. We have been and still are bound together by an open and friendly relationship. Our lines of communications were open. His family remains in Libya and is being treated with all respect and appreciation. The man posed no threat whatsoever in order for us to move against him and thus jeopardize our

Egyptian relations and interests in Egypt. Al-Kikhya is a man of stature. He once served as minister in view of the revolution's confidence in him. He left office having reached the age of retirement. I recall one day the brother colonel [al-Qadhdhafi] asked that we contact him in Paris and ask him to go to Algeria as a member of a Libyan delegation when Ahmed Ben-Bella returned to his country. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How do you react to reports that Libyan-Egyptian relations are strained and that Dr. Usamah al-Baz's mission in Libya last month was a failure?

[Al-Bishari] There's no truth in these reports. Nor will we allow such a thing to happen. Ours is a strategic relationship that we will not allow anyone to sabotage. In none of the assignments entrusted to Dr. al-Baz by President Mubarak to seek a way out of the Lockerbie affair has he failed. Besides, as far as al-Kikhya's disappearance is concerned, Libya is not in the dock for al-Baz to go to Tripoli to talk about the affair. Again, the man is not an enemy of ours. We wish him a safe and speedy return to his children and wife. We hope the mystery of his disappearance will be solved. We—Egyptians and Libyans alike—are distressed by his disappearance. [passage omitted]

Accuses 'Foreign Elements' on al-Kikha

NC1101100994 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 94 p 7

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-SHA'B, Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan envoy to the Arab League, accused foreign elements of kidnapping Libyan opposition figure Mansur al-Kikhya. He stressed that al-Kikhya's disappearance is a riddle, noting that Libya will not sacrifice its relations with Egypt for the sake of a Libyan opponent. He denied that his country is involved in kidnapping al-Kikhya, stressing that there are relations of friendship between the former Libyan minister and the Libyan regime's leaders. He pointed out that al-Kikhya did not constitute the least danger for Libya, making it sacrifice its relations and interests with Egypt. He said al-Kikyha is a man of high standing and the revolution honored him and appointed him a minister. When he reached retirement age, brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi asked him to go to Algeria as part of the visiting Libyan delegation when Ben Bella returned to Algeria.

Al-Bishari pointed out that the culprit in the disappearance of al-Kikhya has interests in continuing the embargo against Libya, starving the Libyan people, maintaining the threat of the Lockerbie case against Libya, and harming Libyan-Egyptian relations.

Discussing the Lockerbie crisis, al-Bishari stressed that it could have been settled peacefully in November 1991 had it followed a legal course and had the Western nations cooperated with the Libyan Judiciary. He said Libya was surprised when the Western nations brought the case out of its framework and imposed it on the UN Security Council and passed resolutions to impose the embargo on the Libyan people. He pointed out that his country suggested every possible proposal to solve the issue peacefully without harming its sovereignty, independence, or supreme interests. And Libya, he said, expressed readiness to cooperate with every party and implement the UN Charter, which calls for maintaining security and peace. We also offered to compensate the families of the victims.

Al-Bishari did not rule out a peaceful solution to the Lockerbie crisis, noting the mediation efforts by heads of state and countries including President Mubarak. He stressed that Libya seeks to establish good ties with Washington as a superpower and has interests in Libya. He noted that Egypt and Tunisia are trying hard to reach this goal. He said his country seeks no confrontation with Washington but will not relinquish its national interests or the Arab nation's right to exist and have unity.

Al-Bishari stressed that the retreat of the main witness in the Lockerbie case, which will greatly help his country, is considered to be an important development in the case that might influence public opinion and the attitude of the nonpermanent members of the Security Council, which were pressured to vote against Libya.

Disappearance Seen as 'Warning' to Algeria

BR1101140994 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 10 Jan 94 p 16

[Report by Magdi Allam: "The Thriller Story of the Abducted Leader"

[Text] Cairo—"My husband, Mansur al-Kikhya, succeeded two months ago in uniting all the Libyan opposition forces during a meeting in Algeria, the first time this happened on a serious political and strategic platform. On this occasion a second meeting between the opposition forces was scheduled in order to take a further step forward in their common action. This is probably why al-Qadhdhafi had him abducted." And why Mrs. Baha al-Amry, wife of Tripoli's former foreign minister and leader of the "Libyan Patriotic Alliance," who disappeared in Cairo on 10 December last, made this revelation.

Al-Qadhdhafi was probably not wanting so much to hit al-Kikhya, with whom he had been in dialogue at a distance for some time, nor the opposition forces as a whole, who have never constituted a serious threat to his power, rather he was probably aiming to give a serious warning to Algeria not to get involved in Libya's domestic affairs. On its side, Algeria has taken the initiative in unifying the Libyan opposition in reaction to al-Qadhdhafi's support for the Algerian fundamentalists of the outlawed "Islamic Salvation Front." In short, al-Kikhya's abduction should be seen as part of the settlement of accounts between Libya and Algeria in what is a pretty critical phase for both regimes in power. It is significant that al-Kikhya, aged 63 and holder of an Algerian diplomatic passport, had obtained political asylum in France and had asked to be granted American

citizenship as his wife, of Syrian origin, is a U.S. citizen. And now Mrs. al-Amry has written to President Clinton requesting that her husband be granted U.S. citizenship, in the hope that the seriousness and risks of a direct encounter with Washington will induce al-Qadhdhafi to take a softer approach. "Al-Qadhdhafi is behaving like someone who is desperate, he has been squeezed by sanctions, driven into a corner by the international community, and is reacting in an irrational manner, shouting as loud as he can to make himself heard," Mrs. al-Amry commented.

"It is true that there are no concrete proof that my husband has been abducted by al-Qadhdhafi," she said, with one eye on the masters of the house who are interested in maintaining a low profile on the matter so as not to jeopardize the jobs of one million Egyptian emigrants in Libya. But she added that al-Qadhdhafi's thesis that her husband's disappearance was due to "a settlement of accounts between two opposition groups" was improbable. "The opposition is not involved," Mrs. al-Amry cut us short, in particular as "after al-Kikhya's disappearance they are now all united as he would have wished."

The other strange aspect of this intricate thriller story on the Nile relates to the personal relationships between al-Kikhya and al-Qadhdhafi. "My husband was in favor of dialogue with everyone, even with al-Qadhdhafi's emissaries," Mrs. al-Amry said, not hiding her own disapproval. "He placed conditions only on the repeated request to return and live in Libya." In particular al-Kikhya, in meetings in Paris with Ahmad Gheddaf Eddaru, al-Qadhdhafi's cousin and head of the civil service, and with others of the Libyan leader's emissaries, had placed four conditions: recognition of the opposition forces, their involvement in the management of power, the liberation of political detainees, and the introduction of a democratic system. "Obviously al-Qadhdhafi's reply was negative," Mrs. al-Amry maintained. "He cannot live with democracy."

The proofs of al-Qadhdhafi's responsibility in this abduction are listed in a communique circulated in Cairo by the "Libyan Patriotic Alliance," led by al-Kikhya. First of all it reminds readers, and in particular the Egyptian authorities who are accused of not carrying out an adequate investigation, that a Libyan agent, whose mediation al-Kikhya had refused for contacting members of the regime, also disappeared from Cairo on 10 December and reappeared two days later at Benghazi's Tibesti hotel. Moreover, on 11 December, at 1130, three automobiles with Libyan diplomatic plates crossed the Al-Salum frontier post heading for Tobruk, without being subjected to any inspection. There is a strong suspicion that one of these automobiles contained al-Kikhya.

Will he now come to the same end as Imam Moussa Al Sadr, the Lebanese Shiite religious dignitary, who disappeared mysteriously in Libya in August 1980? Then al-Qadhdhafi tried to unload the blame onto Italy, sending a look-alike of the imam to Rome who then disappeared without trace. "I will not give anyone any respite until I have my husband back," his wife assured us.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Crowds During Visits

Promises No 'Surrender'

LD0701214594

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1949 GMT on 7 January carries a 66-minute recorded speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "to the masses of Surman and Abu 'Isa" on 2 January.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that with this speech he is concluding his visits to various parts of the country. He says that the world has witnessed the reaction of the Libyan people and how they are rallying in defense of their country and rights. The Libyans have not attacked another country, nor interfered in other people's affairs. We live on our land and want peace with others. He again asks how the author of *The Satanic Verses* can be received by Western leaders. If we hold out the olive branch to them, they will not accept.

Al-Qadhdhafi then recalls how the Libyan people resisted Italy. The people refused to submit. He says the Libyan people will not surrender despite the weapons the West has. The West asks why the Libyans meet with Abu Nidal, Jibril, etc. We meet them because these people are strugglers fighting for their land. George Washington fought the British as Abu Nidal is doing. Regarding the IRA, al-Qadhdhafi says that Libya meets the IRA just as the British meet the IRA in secret. The West says Kurds in Iraq have rights but Kurds in Turkey don't—this is because Turkey is with the West. Imperialist circles are against all those who refuse to surrender. They want to make profits at our expense. We will triumph because our enemy looks for profit. No matter what we do these people do not want our friendship.

Views 'Confrontation' With West

LD0801224594

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 2022 GMT on 8 January begins broadcasting a recording of a speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on 5 January to the residents of Abu Salim during his visit there.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins his speech by thanking the audience for a warm welcome. He says he values the courage displayed by the masses in this area against the possibilities of confrontation with the enemy and coping with economic sanctions. He underlines the fact that many tribes in Libya used to boast about how many martyrs they had given in their fight against the Italians. Today, Libyans are facing a direct confrontation with America and Europe. When you want to abuse someone you call him a renegade, he says, but no Libyan family wants to bring up a renegade.

Al-Qadhdhafi goes on to talk about the Muslim Brotherhood and other religious fanatics. He describes them as people who reneged on Islam and the prophet's teachings. Foreign intelligence agencies are behind these Islamic tendencies, he states. The West wants Arab oil and it will do anything to get it. During the life of the Prophet Muhammad none of these Islamic movements existed. The Zoroastrians brought many of their rituals into Islam in the early days of the faith—things that are alien to Islam, he says.

There is a cold war going on today between the enemy and Libyans, he continues. America cannot send its sons to Libya to be killed, nor does it want to sacrifice its children on Libyan soil. As for traitors, these are dealt with by the police and the law, and the people set on them and burn their homes and their farms. Treason is under siege by the Libyan people. No one today can commit treason against the people and get away with it, he concludes.

Al-Qadhdhafi goes on to say that the people of Abu Salim represent the entire people of Libya from the point of Arabism, patriotism, and other traits. The people of Abu Salim should bring up their children the right way. The general people's congresses are the place to make laws and to decide on many issues. The important thing is that the people must consume what they themselves produce and they must forget about importing worthless European goods, he says. Libyans should exploit all the potential they have at their disposal whether industrial or agricultural. Every family should regard oil as if it never existed in Libya and should therefore live without its benefits. If the West does not want to buy Libyan oil, so be it, he stresses. Libyans will not kneel or beg them to buy the oil. Libyans should boycott Japanese goods because Japan was one of the first to impose the sanctions, al-Qadhdhafi says. Libyans fought against the Italians long before the Italians started to export Italian goods and foods. Libyans should not import anything from the West if the West keeps its hostility to Libya, he concludes.

Official Receives Sudanese Interior Minister

LD1001152494 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met this morning with brother 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the minister of interior in brotherly Sudan, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

The brotherly relations between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan and means of supporting and strengthening them to achieve their common interests were reviewed and discussed during this meeting.

Agreement Signed

LD1001174894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] An agreement has been signed this morning in Tripoli between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

This agreement embraced the consolidation of the integration march between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan within the framework of embodying the four-freedoms agreement, i.e. the freedoms of movement, residence, work, and ownership between the sons of the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries.

The agreement was signed by the brother secretary general [as heard] at the General People's Committee of Justice and Public Security and brother 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, interior minister in brotherly Sudan.

Accord Minutes Signed

LD1101142794 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] The minutes of an agreement for economic and trade integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Sudan were signed in Tripoli this morning. The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, Trade and Treasury and brother 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the interior minister of fraternal Sudan. [passage omitted]

The minutes point out the need to bolster the ties of integration in all economic and commercial spheres between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Sudan in implementation of the recommendations which were agreed upon at the second meeting of the ministerial committee for integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Sudan. [passage omitted]

Al-Humaydi Praises Results of Tunisian Visit

LD1001135794 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi has ended a visit to Tunisia during which he met President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, [Prime Minister] brother Hamed Karoui, and a number of senior Tunisian officials. In a statement to JANA after his return from Tunisia, Maj. al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi praised the results of this visit and said that he was very grateful for the visit and the brotherly reception given him by the brothers in Tunisia headed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

He added that President Ben Ali had asked him to convey brotherly greetings to the leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] and the Libyan Arab people and had reaffirmed Tunisia's firm solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah.

U.S.' 'Blatant Interference' in Syria Attacked

LD0701164794 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Tripoli, Ay-Annar [January] 7 Jamahiriyah News Agency—Voice of America radio reported that an American group concerned with what it calls "human rights", has put pressure on Syria to release 15 Syrians whom are said are being held in Syrian prisons.

The Arab affairs editor in the Jamahiriyah News Agency commented on this saying:

"Such actions constitute blatant interference in Syria's internal affairs".

The editor questioned whether the United States would accept that anyone could demand of the American President Bill Clinton to release American prisoners in American jails.

The editor said that this condescending manner with which America views the rest of the world has plunged the world into crisis. They do not allow anyone else to treat them as they treat others in the belief that they are unique and others are not allowed to do what the United States allows itself to do.

Morocco

Ministers Attend Meeting on GATT Implications

LD0701142694 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Rabat, Jan.07 (MAP) - A meeting was held Thursday here on the final pact of the world multilateral commercial negotiations of the Uruguay round adopted last December in Geneva.

The meeting, attended by Moroccan Foreign Trade Minister Mourad Cherif, Secretary of State to Foreign Affairs Taieb Fassi el-Fehri, top executives from various departments, managers and businessmen, stressed the importance of the conclusion of the final pact of the Uruguay round in the liberalization of the international commerce and world economy.

The signing ceremony of the pact due in Morocco as well as the kingdom's role in the world trade negotiations, GATT's regulations and the role of the pact in promoting investments and world trade were also reviewed during the meeting.

Premier Receives Senegalese Minister for Talks

LD0701133394 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Rabat, Jan.07-(MAP)-Moroccan Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani received here Thursday Senegalese Minister in Charge of Regional Economic Integration Maguette Thiam who handed him a message from President Abdou Diouf to King Hassan II.

The audience was attended by Moroccan State Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali and Maguette's accompanying delegation comprising members from the Inter-State Standing Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

Talks focused on the fraternal and sound ties existing between Morocco and the Sahel countries, the problems suffered by these countries due to drought, desertification, locusts and their economic recovery programs.

The two officials also tackled Morocco's assistance to the Sahel countries, hailing King Hassan II noteworthy moral and material assistance to the region.

Premier Receives Malian Foreign Minister

LD0701134694 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Rabat, Jan.07-(MAP)-Moroccan Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani received Thursday Malian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malians Abroad and African Integration Boubakar Keita who conveyed him a message from Malian President Oumar Konare to King Hassan II.

During the audience, attended by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, the two sides reviewed the situation in the sub-region as well as the development problems and prospects of inter-African economic integration.

UMT Secretary Meets With Italian Counterpart

LD0701143094 Rabat MAP in English 1257 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Rabat, Jan.07 (MAP)-Secretary General of the Confederation of Italian Trade Unions (CISL) Sergio d'Antoni paid a visit to Morocco Jan. 3-5 at the invitation of Moroccan trade union 'L'Union Marocaine du Travail' (UMT).

During his stay, Sergio d'Antoni had talks with UMT Secretary General Mahjoub Benseddik on cooperation prospects between CISL and UMT, the rights of immigrant workers, the unions' independence and role in the protection of the workers rights.

They also reviewed ways of consolidating coordination and the possibility of concluding a social security system convention between the two countries.

Sudan

Garang, Mashar Sign Joint Plan for Negotiations

PM1101110094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Sulayman Salim report: "First Agreement Between Garang and Mashar on Plan To Confront Government"]

[Excerpts] Nairobi—The leaders of the two wings of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], Colonel John Garang and Dr. Riak Mashar, who broke

away from him, have agreed for the first time to present a joint plan in peace negotiations expected to be held with the Sudanese Government.

The plan includes the right to self-determination for southern Sudan and a referendum in this connection after the announcement of a cease-fire among the Sudanese parties to the conflict. An official Sudanese source told AL-HAYAH in Nairobi yesterday that the Sudanese Government delegation to the negotiations is authorized to discuss any issue the SPLM may raise, except the self-determination issue—which means that no progress is likely to occur in the negotiations if they actually take place between the two sides. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH yesterday obtained a copy of the Garang-Mashar plan for the negotiations, which is entitled "Agenda for the Peace Talks in Sudan."

The plan says: "We met on 5 and 6 January in separate meetings in Nairobi with the ministerial committee regarding the peace talks in Sudan. And we agreed on a joint agenda" for negotiation with the Sudanese Government.

The plan includes three points:

1. To negotiate a cease-fire among all parties to the conflict in order to halt all military actions under the supervision of a neutral team of international observers and to secure favorable conditions to facilitate humanitarian relief operations in southern Sudan.

2. The right to self-determination for the people of southern Sudan, the al-Nubah mountains, and other marginalized areas. This can be done through a referendum in these areas to enable the people there to determine their political future by themselves.

3. To make a temporary arrangement to implement these measures during the transitional phase that follows the halt to military actions, until a permanent arrangement is made.

The plan was signed by John Garang and Riak Mashar. It is the first joint plan between the two men to be presented in the peace negotiations with the government since the split inside the movement in 1991. [passage omitted]

Rebels: Garang Faction Poised To Attack Mashar

AB1001184294 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By David Chazan]

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 10 (AFP)—A Sudanese rebel leader on Monday accused a rival insurgent group of preparing to attack his forces despite a ceasefire agreement between the two factions.

Riak Mashar, leader of a breakaway group of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the Islamic fundamentalist government was also massing troops for a new offensive against the mainly Christian and animist southern rebels.

Fighting reportedly erupted between rebels and government forces near the Ugandan border last week, but details were unclear.

Riak told AFP that John Garang, chief of the mainstream SPLA faction, was preparing an attack despite a new agreement between the rival rebel factions to conduct joint negotiations with Khartoum. "Garang is planning an attack on our positions at Lafun, north of Torit, in the next day or so," Riak told AFP. Torit, a town near Sudan's southern border with Uganda, has often been used by Garang as his field headquarters. "This is unfortunate, and I am still hoping that the ceasefire will hold," Riak said.

A spokesman for Garang's group, however, denied the allegation. "It is not true," said Philip Lomodong, the faction's east African representative. Riak and Garang said they had agreed after talks in Nairobi last week with representatives of regional governments to renew a ceasefire declared in October.

Riak, however, said Garang's group had broken the ceasefire only a week after it was agreed, and had captured two of his positions at Iktos and Chikudum in October. There had been no other major fighting between the two rival SPLA groups since October, he said.

Riak said the government was "building up its forces for a new offensive" and was transporting troops to the south in five barges on the Nile. "We are expecting heavy fighting soon," he said.

Riak's SPLA United and Garang's SPLA last week agreed to negotiate jointly with Khartoum after talks here with foreign ministers from Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda, members of the regional group the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGAAD).

The rebels are demanding self-determination for the vast, undeveloped south, where UN officials say a million people need food aid. But they might delay a proposed referendum on establishing an independent southern state if Khartoum agreed to interim arrangements, rebel officials said.

Philip O'Brien, head of the UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan, said an outbreak of fighting between rebel and government forces would disrupt aid and could spark a huge humanitarian crisis.

Sudanese government representatives who also met the IGADD ministers in Nairobi last week reiterated Khartoum's refusal to allow the south to secede.

Riak's faction split from Garang's group in 1991 because Garang rejected calls for an independent south, insisting

that he could break Moslem domination without dividing Sudan. But Garang has since changed his position to favour a referendum. "We are working to form a joint delegation to the peace talks with Khartoum which we hope will soon be convened by the IGADD," Riak said.

"We have been fighting amongst ourselves on the question of self- determination," Riak said. "Now that Garang has changed, we are urging the international community to put pressure on Khartoum so that new talks can be held."

Theoretically the next step in the process to end Sudan's decade-long war is a new round of IGAAD-mediated talks. But African diplomats expressed fears that Khartoum, whose relations with the West are strained, would instead mount an offensive.

Fighting between rebel and government forces, and between the rival rebel factions, has often stopped aid from reaching the inaccessible southern swamplands, UN officials said.

"The humanitarian situation is appalling," Riak said.

Eleven SPLA Members Join Government Forces

AB1101113594 Paris AFP in English 0551 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 11 Jan (AFP)—Eleven high-ranking members of the rebel the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) switched sides to join government forces in the north of the country, a government newspaper reported Monday. The daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI said the 11 had announced their defection during a meeting with Parliamentary Speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah in Malakal.

The news came after allegations earlier Monday by rival rebel leader Riak Mashar that the SPLA under John Garang was preparing to attack his forces despite a ceasefire agreement between the two factions. Riak, leader of SPLA United, which broke away from the SPLA, said the Islamic fundamentalist government was also massing troops for a new offensive against the mainly Christian and animist southern rebels. Fighting reportedly erupted between rebels and government forces near the Ugandan border last week, but details were unclear.

According to the paper the head of the defecting rebels, Colonel Thomas Dut, said that he and his colleagues had decided to quit Garang's SPLA in order "to take part in rebuilding the country."

Riak told AFP earlier Monday that Garang was preparing an attack despite a new agreement between the rival rebel factions to conduct joint negotiations with Khartoum. But a spokesman for Garang's group denied the allegation. "It is not true," said Philip Lomodong, the faction's east African representative.

Meanwhile the Sudanese Government Monday launched an aid operation to deliver 62,000 tonnes of food to people in the stricken south of the country. Aid Commissioner Awad Khalifah said the deliveries would be made by rail from Babanoussa to Wau, or by river from Kosti to Juba. Ismail Moustafa, head of the department for displaced people, said 3,624 families currently living in camps around Khartoum would be able to go home. He added that 15,000 people had become refugees since the start of the civil war in 1983, and were now living in four camps around Khartoum, where the Sudanese parliament is based. [passage omitted]

Official: Relief Supplies Reaching South

EA0901202694 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1605 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Khartoum 9 Jan (SUNA)—The total amount of relief supplies transported to affected areas in the southern states by various means have now reached 62,000 t [tonnes]. This was said to SUNA by Mr. Awad Khalifah, commissioner general of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, who stressed that relief supplies had been taken to the affected areas without any discrimination—including areas penetrated by the rebel movement.

He also said that the third fleet of river steamers carrying relief supplies from Kosti to Juba in Equatoria State had begun to move. He pointed out that preparations for the movement of the third train from Babanusah to Wau in Bahr al-Ghazal State was complete.

He went on to say that this year would witness a process of concentration on reconstruction, in addition to the expansion of overland transport. He also said that work was now going on to rehabilitate the Malakal Hospital in Upper Nile State, within the framework of Sudanese-French cooperation. He said that the hospital would provide medical services for the displaced persons and the returnees.

Russian Plane Chartered To Transport Supplies

EA1001160994 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—Mr. Awad Khalifah, the commissioner general of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, has said that the commission has chartered a Russian aircraft to strengthen its transport fleet. It is expected to arrive in the next few days. The aircraft would be used to transport relief supplies to the areas which cannot be reached by river steamers or railways. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Confirms 20 Mar Elections

LD1001204294 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met today with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and Abdallah Kallel, minister of state and interior minister, at Carthage

Palace. During the meeting the head of state signed three decrees relating to the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. The first decree invites voters to elect the president of the republic and parliamentary deputies on 20 March 1994. The decree also sets the deadline for candidacies, the last day of the election campaign, and the amount of allowances offered to candidates for their election campaign. This is in accordance with the terms of the electoral code.

The second decree fixes the total number of parliamentary seats, the constituencies and the number of seats for each of these constituencies. The third decree deals with the polling stations to be set up abroad for the presidential elections and also with the conditions surrounding the holding of these elections.

The head of state also recommended that practical measures be taken immediately to ensure that the upcoming elections are held in the best possible conditions.

Turkish Defense Minister Notes 'Close Bonds'

LD0701154194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a written message from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, which was delivered to his excellency at Carthage Palace this morning by Turkish Defense Minister Mehmet Golhan, in the presence of Minister of National Defense Abdelaziz Ben Dhia. [passage omitted]

The Turkish defense minister pointed out that the meeting enabled them to review cooperation between the two fraternal countries, as well as the situation in the countries of the former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia and said: We agreed to further bolster cooperation between Tunisia and Turkey, thanks to the similarities between them as they are both Islamic countries and could achieve constructive progress thanks to their success in reconciling Islamic values with modernity values. [passage omitted]

The Turkish minister pointed to the close bonds of rapprochement between the Turkish and Tunisian peoples, and hoped that bilateral cooperation would rise to the level of those ties.

He said Tunisia and Turkey represent an element of peace and stability and are capable, due to the efforts they made in this respect, to further bolster their roles in the future as citadels of peace and stability.

In conclusion, he voiced hope that 1994 would be a year of peace in the world.

Meets With Ben Dhia, Departs

LD0801201794 Riyadh SPA in English 1931 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] Tunis, Jan 8, SPA—Turkish Defense Minister Mehmet Golhan left Tunis on Saturday after a three-day state visit to Tunisia during which he was received by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Tunisian [as received] minister also held talks with his Tunisian counterpart Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya on ways to enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries as well as other matters of mutual interest.

Economy Minister Meets Britain's CBI Director

LD0701185994 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] National Economy Minister Sadok Rabah stressed during his meeting today with Mr. Davies, the director general of the Confederation of British Industries [CBI], Tunisia's adherence to the necessity of strengthening cooperation with Britain. This will be in the form of economic partnerships which will help entrench the continuous and fruitful cooperation between Tunisian and British economic operators.

The minister added that the opening up of the Tunisian economy to the world economy was bolstered by a firm will aimed at extending and varying cooperation with European partners.

The head of the Confederation of British Industries expressed his admiration for the promising and positive talks between Tunisia and the European Community. He also expressed the hope that these consultations will contribute to establishing solid foundations for continuous and fruitful exchanges between Tunisia and the European Community.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Message to 'Arafat

LD1001183594 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 6, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has received a cable of congratulation and good wishes from the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat over the the inauguration of Majles al-Shura.

'Arafat, for his own part and on behalf of the Palestinian people and members of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), expressed congratulations and best wishes to the Saudi leadership and people on the great occasion.

He decribed the Shura council under the patronage of King Fahd as a great achievement in the Saudi march towards comprehensive development, progress and prosperity.

Besides, 'Arafat said, the Shura council is also a blessed step that reflects the heritage of our glorious nation and our true Islamic faith and, at the same time it is a matter of pride for our Palestinian people which regained its independence and sovereignty. He expressed hopes that the great stop would dedicate the leading and respectable place being enjoyed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all Arab, Islamic and international levels.

President 'Arafat availed himself of the opportunity to express deep thanks and consideration to King Fahd, the Saudi Government and people for the constant and generous moral and material support being rendered by the Kingdom to the Palestinian people particularly in the current sensitive phase of its history while started establishment of national economic institutions to pave way for the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with al-Quds [Jerusalem] as its capital.

Replying to the cable, the Saudi monarch thanked the head of the state of Palestine and chairman of PLO for the heartfelt feelings he expressed in his cable on the occasion of the inauguration of the Shura council.

The king, who also thanked the Palestinian people and members of the PLO's Executive Committee, expressed hope that the Almighty Allah would support the Islamic nation and enable the Palestinian people of regaining its full national rights and successfully sets up its own economic institution during this critical period of its history.

Prince Sultan, UK Defense Secretary Hold Talks

LD1001194294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and the inspector general, and His Excellency Malcolm Rifkind, the British defense secretary, and in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy minister of defense and aviation, this evening held official talks at the palace of his royal highness the second deputy prime minister in Riyad. The talks were attended on the Saudi side by the chief of the General Staff, staff General Muhammad Bin Salih al-Hammad, the commanders of the land, naval and air forces and the air defense forces, and on the British side by the delegation accompanying His Excellency Mr. Malcolm Rifkind and British Ambassador to the Kingdom David Gore-Booth.

At the beginning of the talks His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz made a speech in which he welcomed in the name of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and in his own name and the name of His Highness Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and the people of the Kingdom, his excellency the British minister and his colleagues. His highness called for the continuation of the relations, cooperation, and exchanged visits. His highness said that relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Britain are distinguished—they are old relations dating back to the days of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God's mercy be on his soul. We would like to reaffirm that cooperation between the two states continues and is on a sound and correct path even if there are differences with regard to some views or differences regarding some projects. This is within the nature of the positive matters until views are corrected.

His excellency the British defense secretary also made a speech in which he expressed his pleasure at visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and expressed his thanks and gratitude for the generous hospitality and welcome he received in the Kingdom. His excellency lauded the relations between the two friendly countries.

UK's Rifkind Departs After Visit

LD1001220794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2135 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 10 Jan—His Excellency Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, British defense secretary, and his accompanying delegation left Riyadh this evening after a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Meets Malian Foreign Minister

LD0901204994 Riyadh SPA in English 1945 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 9, SPA—Second deputy premier, minister of defence and aviation and inspector general Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz reveived here today visiting Mali Foreign Minister Ibrahim Boubakar Keita who conveyed to him a verbal message from the Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The meeting was attended by the Malian Ambassador to the Kingdom Mahmoud Zouber.

Yemen

Four Yemeni Workers of U.S. Oil Firm Released

JN1101071494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] The kidnappers of the nine workers of the U.S. oil firm Hunt Oil have released four Yemeni workers. The other five, including a British and a Canadian citizen, are still being held.

Gunmen from the Khulan tribe kidnapped the nine workers last Tuesday to pressure Yemeni authorities to give them money.

Ulema Vow To Stay at Mosque Until al-Bid Arrives

JN1001211394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2006 GMT 10 Jan 94

Yemeni ulema today held a further meeting at Mu'az Bin-Jabal Mosque in the al-Janad region for a review of our country's political crisis. They set up five subcommittees [as heard]: The Constants Committee; one to study and prepare a response to the president's speech; and one to propose solutions to the crisis. The subcommittees began their work as soon as they were named.

The Yemeni news agency, SABA', has learned that contacts have been made with the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, the Political Forces Dialouge Committee, and the Fact-Finding Committee. They were informed of the ulema's decision that each party and committee must send a representative to the ulema's meeting in al-Janad in order for them to air their views on the political crisis and its underlying causes and to propose solutions. The ulema are now waiting for the representatives to arrive, now that agreement of the parties and committees was obtained. SABA' has also learned that the ulema have promised to remain in the Mu'az Bin-Jabal Mosque until 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council, shows up there.

At today's ulema's meeting, many of their number voiced their opinions and made observations on the crisis.

President Salih Gives Address on Crisis

JN1001213794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, met with the brother officials in Ta'izz Governorate, and the representatives of political parties and groups, trade unions, businessmen, tribal chiefs, notables, youths, the armed forces, and the public security forces.

During the meeting, Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih greeted those attending and through them all the sons of the governorate. He referred to the daily concerns of the sons of our Yemeni people and their tribulations as a result of the crisis our country is experiencing at this stage of its history. He said that he has taken note of what many sons of the governorate have spoken about, and who have aired their concerns during this meeting.

He said: I would like to thank my brothers, the sons of this governorate who have contributed to the success of the large popular gathering in the governorate through which they have emphasized their concern for the unity of the homeland and the cohesion of its sons, and blessed this gathering, which is a positive and effective sign and an example the other governorates should emulate to voice their views and air their concerns on the crisis the homeland and unity are experiencing in these circumstances.

The brother president spoke about the causes of the current political crisis in the country. He said: We know very well who has fabricated this crisis that has greatly harmed our national economy and has created a rift in national unity. The brother president reviewed the efforts that were exerted to reunite the homeland, a strategic objective of the Yemeni revolution and the most cherished achievement recorded by the Yemeni people since 1981. He also noted the meetings and dialogue that followed until 22 May 1990, when these efforts were crowned with the declaration of the establishment of unity and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen by peaceful and brotherly means through which the one Yemeni family, which had been dispersed by colonialism and the imamate, was reunited. The brother president said: The Yemenis offered the most cherished sacrifices to regain this unity. The brother president thanked the sons of the Ta'izz Governorate for hosting the meeting of the Yemeni ulema, which is being held in the mosque of revered Prophet Muhammad's companion Ma'adh ibn-Jabal in the al-Janad area in accordance with the call that was addressed to me and to the brother vice president to meet in this historical mosque and in this heroic city to study the present crisis and find solutions that will save the masses of our people from the tribulation they suffer as a result of the economic crisis brought about by the political crisis and the great impact it has left on the daily life of the citizen.

The brother president said: In these critical circumstances, I call on every citizen to say what he believes to be right and to confront what is wrong without fear. He added: We want every citizen to say to the person who committed a mistake that he has done so and to the benefactor that he has done right. We want the citizen to raise his sincere and resonant voice on what is taking place now, fearing God only.

In his address, the brother president spoke about the causes of the crisis and its developments. He said: The crisis has been exacerbated since 19 August last year following the return of my comrade and colleague 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secretary general, from his trip abroad for treatment. All the masses of our people are aware of this. We have endured many falsehoods, and suffered great harm, and the

falsification of facts for the sake of the homeland and to safeguard unity. Everyone knows that the crisis began within the framework of our partner, the YSP, which later transferred it into a crisis between the president and his deputy, and then between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the YSP, and then between the GPC, the YSP and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. We must now clarify things and tell all the facts so that all the people will know who is responsible for the crisis and how it has been exacerbated. He said that the government under Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has not come forth with any state budget since 1993 and the state is now being run in 1994 without any budget. He explained that some forces and quarters are working to destroy the state's institutions, particularly the forces and quarters that stood against unity and seek to spread disorder, corruption, and sabotage in our society.

The brother president said: We must shun all the experiences that were tried during the so-called fragmentation era and evaluate our experience in the economic, administrative, and development areas by economic, sharia, law, and administration scientists and experts so that we may choose the best. We are not biased toward any single experience. What we want is to build our homeland on sound bases, away from oneupmanship and empty slogans. He indicated that there are those who seek to exacerbate the citizens' sufferings through price hikes to instigate and foment anger and prompt citizens to engage in riots, sabotage, and plunder, as happened on 9-10 December 1992. He noted that he had accepted all the points the YSP has raised since the eruption of the crisis, beginning with the three points regarding the proposed amendments to the drafting of the articles enshrined in the constitutional amendment bills pertaining to local government, the Advisory Council, and the form of presidency, and ending with the 18 points, the acceptance of which was set as a condition for the attainment of a solution, not to mention its demands for the enactment of a presidential elections bill, of which a similar bill has already been passed. The parties to the coalition government concluded an agreement on the aforementioned amendments. We have also accepted the decisions and recommendations made by the masses' gatherings in the provinces, the last of which were the decisions made by the masses' gathering of the Ta'izz Province and the initiative of their eminences the ulema.

The brother president added: We have accepted all this to spare Yemen any possible dangers. I have come to Ta'izz to resolve the crisis. In the past, I went several times to Aden to achieve unity. Why then doesn't the Ta'izz meeting materialize to preserve and safeguard unity, spare our people seditions, and relieve them of this immense suffering, which is caused by the crisis?

The brother president touched on several current issues, including the issue of local government. He noted that he is for easing the centralization of authority and the introduction of administrative decentralization. He added: We have instructed the government to achieve this objective. We also asked it to draft new legislation stipulating that local councils must create their own revenues, which must be used to implement development and services projects in the provinces.

The brother president called upon the residents of the Ta'izz Governorate, and all of our people's masses, to demonstrate vigilance and awareness so they may be able to confront misleading propaganda and the misrepresentation of facts being promoted by some in order to thwart the efforts of those who are attempting to make our country take steps backward or push it into the abyss.

The meeting was opened by a recitation of Koranic verses. Then, Shaykh Muhammad Muhammad 'Abd-al-Malik delivered a speech on behalf of the province's population. He began by welcoming the brother president. On behalf of the province's population, he thanked the brother president for the favorable response he showed to the ulema's call for a meeting between him and his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid at al-Janad Mosque. He hoped that this initiative will be well received by all in the interest of Yemen and its stability. He added: Our people's masses are looking forward to this meeting, which we hope will crown all efforts with success, so that our people may cope with their problems and meet the challenges facing their unity. For, this is a must if they are to achieve progress and prosperity under unity, the people's fate.

Then, brother 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Dali'i delivered a speech on behalf of the coordination council of political organizations and parties. He began by welcoming the visit of the brother president to the province on this spiritual occasion, which is dear to our Yemeni people. He explained the political organizations' positions on the political crisis being experienced by our country, which is jeopardizing its unity. He added: The Yemeni masses, who have made dear sacrifices to promote the Yemeni revolution and achieve unity, will not hesitate to make additional sacrifices to safeguard unity and entrench it.

Afterward, an open discussion was held. Several brother members of the expanded masses' gathering of the Ta'izz Province took part in this discussion. In this discussion, they affirmed their concern for safeguarding and defending the unity of the homeland, and asked that a serious and responsible dialogue be used as a vehicle for defusing the crisis. They also underscored the need for the two brothers, the Presidential Council chairman and the Presidential Council vice chairman, to meet at the Mu'ad Bin-Jabal Mosque in response to the Yemeni ulema's appeal to reach solutions that will resolve the crisis and halt the sufferings and calamities it is causing to citizens.

The meeting was attended by several brother state officials.

Salih Receives Jordanian Envoy, King's Message

JN1001202694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] At the Presidential Palace in Ta'izz today, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential

Council chairman, received brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of Jordan's Royal Court, who relayed a message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The message concerns brotherly ties and developments of concern to the two fraternal countries, as well as the brotherly efforts exerted by His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal to bring viewpoints closer and overcome the current situation in our country.

During the meeting, the conferees reviewed several developments, issues of mutual concern, and relations between the two brotherly countries. The brother president expressed appreciation for the role played by His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal and the brothers in Jordan and the great concern they display toward the process of unity and democracy in our country. He praised the warm brotherly ties between the two countries. He also asked al-Sharif Zayd to convey his greetings to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal and wishes for continued progress and prosperity to the fraternal Jordanian people.

The meeting was attended by brother Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister; Muhammad Salim Basindwah, the foreign minister; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, adviser to His Majesty King Husayn; and Staff Major General 'Id Salim, Jordanian assistant chief of staff.

Al-Bid Holds Talks With Jordanian Envoy

JN1001204294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, received in Aden this afternoon brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court, who conveyed to the brother Presidential Council vice chairman a message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The message deals with the brotherly bilateral relations and issues of concern to the two sisterly countries.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means to strengthen the warm brotherly relations. They also exchanged views on current developments.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his appreciation for the sincere efforts exerted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to help our country overcome the challenges and difficulties. He said he valued the positive role played by the Kingdom of Jordan and its stand that supports unity and democracy in our country.

The meeting was attended by brother Salih Nassar (?al-Shini), Aden governor; Colonel Qasim Yahya, commander of the Eastern Operational Sector; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, adviser to His Majesty King Husayn; and Staff Major General 'Id Salim, Jordanian assistant chief of staff.

Jordanian Officers Refused Entry to Aden

PM1101101294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Faysal Makram and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah report: "24 Jordanian Officers in Sanaa To Supervise Implementation of Dialogue Committee Decisions"]

[Text] An atmosphere of caution prevailed in Aden yesterday, and shops in the city closed following the refusal of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, to go to al-Jand Mosque in Ta'izz to meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

It seems that the Yemeni crisis has entered a new phase of complications as a result of the failure to hold the meeting for which the ulema called. [passage omitted]

Military sources have revealed to AL-HAYAH the presence of 24 Jordanian officers in Sanaa at a request from the national dialogue committee concerned with the Yemeni crisis to supervise its decisions concerning the military aspect, redeployment of the Armed Forces, and efforts to end military tension. However, these officers have not been able to move into Aden as a result of Socialist Party leaders' objection to their presence and to entrusting them with certain tasks, despite their earlier approval. [passage omitted]

Dialogue Committee Debates Document on Crisis

JN1101074694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The political forces' dialogue committee held a meeting this evening in the economic and commercial capital, Aden. The committee began to debate a document of pledge and agreement between the parties to the dialogue of political forces to build a modern Yemeni state. The document was drafted by a subcommittee emanating from the political forces' dialogue committee.

The draft document states the solutions reached by the dialogue committee to the current issues and problems that caused the current crisis. The draft is also a prelude to the building of a modern Yemeni state as it sets forth foundations for stability and order and ensures that such crises will not be repeated. This is meant to protect and safeguard unity, enhance Yemen's democratic process, and broaden popular participation along the road of establishing a developed Yemeni state that safeguards the rights of citizens and provides them with equal opportunities. This will allow for the achievement of balanced socioeconomic development.

The committee is still in session and continues to debate the draft document.

Regime Continues Shelling of Southern Marshes

NC1001172294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The Saddamite regime's troops continue their intensive onslaught against the southern marshes, particularly the (al-Huwayjah) marshes, shelling them with large-caliber weapons and causing wide-scale damage in the region.

The Monday issue of the newspaper AL-MU'TAMAR, citing Iraqi opposition sources, adds that approximately 1,250 citizens have arrived at the Iranian borders in extremely bad condition after having escaped death from Saddam Husayn's attack on the southern marshes. The same sources add that the fleeing citizens include hundreds of children and elderly people. Some of the displaced persons perished during the journey to the Iranian border after being hit with large-caliber artillery shells that followed them. The paper adds that the number of casualties is not known, but eyewitnesses among the displaced persons have stated that during their journey they saw many scorched and torn bodies of defenseless inhabitants of the marshes.

Kurdistan 'Minister' Receives U.S. Officials

NC0901171594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim, minister of humanitarian aid and cooperation, has received Mr. Stephen (Shamal), U.S. State Department official responsible for Iraqi affairs, and Mrs. Barbara Schell, political adviser to the coalition forces at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the current economic, political, and social situation in Kurdistan as well as the living conditions of the people in the region. During the one-hour meeting, the two parties emphasized the need to defend and safeguard the democratic experience in Kurdistan.

Kurdistan's Rasul Sends Message to UK's Major

NC1001184094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Jan 94

["Text" of message from Kurdistan Prime Minister Kusret Rasul to British Prime Minister John Major in reply to Major's earlier message on 6 January; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Prime Minister John Major: Accept my regards and those of all members of the government. We thank you, your government, and the British people for the humanitarian aid you have extended to the Kurdish people in Iraq.

Your envoy, Lord Jeffrey Archer, has read the text of the message you sent to us in the Kurdistan Parliament. The measures taken by your government for the survival of the Kurdish people and to ease their suffering have been extremely helpful. [words indistinct] the safe havens and Britain's participation in the [word indistinct] alert force and your constant pressure on the Iraqi Government to implement the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 688, not to mention your support for democracy worldwide.

I would like to ask Your Excellency, in cooperation with the member states of the al[illegible]nce, to try to exclude the Kurdistan region from the international economic embargo imposed by the UN against Iraq to improve the difficult economic conditions of our people. The Iraqi Government has imposed a tight siege on the Kurdistan region and is selling us fuel at exorbitant prices in hard currency. A few months ago it cut off the electricity supply to the Dahuk Governorate. In addition, the abrogation of the 25-dinar Iraqi banknote has caused grave economic damage to the Kurdistan region. The living conditions are getting worse every day.

Let me repeat my request for you to show a historic stance to lift the economic embargo on Kurdistan and to continue sending aid to eliminate the fear, repression, and poverty and maintain peace and amity. I hope you will be able to visit Kurdistan soon.

Best regards.

Signed, Kusret Rasul Ali, Kurdistan prime minister

6 January 1994

Members of Presidential Guard Said Dismissed

NC1001162894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] According to reliable sources, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dismissed Captain Sami [name indistinct], one of his personal guards from the Presidential Palace, in the past few days on a certain charge. Saddam's son, Qusayy, arrested Sami's brother (?Adina). Interrogations are being conducted of certain individuals who have connections with the captain. It should be recalled that the Iraqi regime arrested a large number of the officers in the Presidential Palace on 6 January on charges of collaboration with foreigners and the Iraqi opposition.

Regime Said Hiding Chemical Weapons in Oil Pipes

NC1001173994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] In its Monday issue, the newspaper AL-MU'TAMAR reported that news coming from the areas under the Iraqi regime's control indicate that the regime is hiding its chemical weapons in the oil pipes located between al-Fallujah City and the Jordanian border. This is the last desperate attempt by the Iraqi regime to hide its chemical and biological weapons from the eyes of the international inspectors.

Clandestine Reports Minister Threatens Kuwait

NC1001174594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The AL-MU'TAMAR [Iraqi opposition newspaper] newspaper, citing some sources, has reported that

the regime's defense minister, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, threatened the Kuwaitis during a meeting with tribal chiefs in the city of al-Batha', which is located between' al-Nasiriyah and Sinawah, on 25 December. Al-Majid emphasized that Saddam and his henchmen will reoccupy Kuwait.

Official Remarks on 'Kuwaiti Prisoners'

JN1001152694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The Arab labor delegations participating in the ninth conference of the International Federation of the Arab Workers Trade Unions, being held in Tunis, have denounced the allegations and lies uttered by the representative of the regime imposed on Kuwait regarding the so-called Kuwaiti prisoners.

Replying to the representative of the al-Sabah regime, Fadil Mahmud Gharib, head of the General Federation of the Iraqi Workers Trade Unions, cited documents and exposed the falsehood of these allegations. Gharib explained that these lies are aimed at perpetuating the embargo being imposed on the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi news agency correspondent in Tunis cited Gharib as saying that the Iraqi people—who are prominent in Arab history, thanks to their pan-Arab heroic deeds, and who have never failed to support the fraternal Arab states and carry out a pan-Arab role in confronting the hostile plans—will remain steadfast in the face of all attempts aimed at destroying Iraq's capabilities and preventing Iraq from carrying out its pan-Arab role.

Gharib's reply to the representative of the al-Sabah regime received lots of applause and profound enthusiasm on the part of all Arab labor delegations participating in the conference.

Saddam Thanked by Yasir 'Arafat in Cable

JN0801145794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in reply to the cable of congratulation his excellency had sent to him on the 29th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian revolution. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn: Greetings. I have received with great appreciation your brotherly, sincere congratulation on the 29th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian revolution. I am pleased in the name of our Palestinian people and my brothers, in the name of the members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name to thank you, your esteemed government, and the fraternal Iraqi people very much and to wish you all the best.

I will also seize this opportunity to express to your excellency, dear brother, our mujahid Palestinian people's feelings of solidarity with and gratitude to the fraternal Iraqi people under current circumstances and the unjust blockade that is imposed on them and that is targeting the food and medicine of their children.

We also express our deep belief that fraternal Iraq will be able, thanks to its great efforts and capabilities under your brave leadership, to overcome this ordeal, difficulties, and conspiracies surrounding it and to restore its prominent role in our glorious Arab nation's march toward freedom, development, and prosperity, which our people lack at this decisive and crucial stage of their history as a result of the great difficulties they are facing in their fateful negotiating battle to regain their freedom and independence and to start building their national and economic institutions as a basis for their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

I beseech Almighty God to guide our steps in our efforts to unify the ranks of our nation, restore its unified position, and overcome its wounds in the interest of its generations and it dignity. I thank you again and wish your excellency good health, happiness, and success, and I hope that the fraternal Iraqi people will overcome the ordeals surrounding them and resume their march toward progress, development, and prosperity under your wise leadership. We will march together to Jerusalem, with Almighty God's help.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Arab League Notified of Aircraft Violations

JN0901114794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0834 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (INA)—Iraq has again informed the Arab League of the continued facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for the U.S., British, and French aircraft violating the Iraqi airspace, thus posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to the Arab league secretary general yesterday, Iraq's representative to the Arab League said that on 1, 2, and 3 January U.S., British, and French planes continued to violate the Iraqi airspace after flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 101 hostile air sorties.

The Iraqi representative enclosed a list detailing these violations.

Letter to UN Protests 'Violations'

JN0901115094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0836 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] New York, 9 Jan (INA)—Iraq has again protested to the United Nations over U.S. aircraft's violations of the Iraqi airspace for purposes of surveillance, provocation, and the dropping of flares.

In a letter to the UN secretary general yesterday, the permanent Iraqi UN representative said that from 21-31 December U.S. aircraft carried out 767 aggressive air sorties over the northern and southern regions of Iraq. In addition, a hostile formation dropped a flare south of al-Basrah.

In his letter, the Iraqi envoy asked that the letter be distributed among the member states and be considered one of the UN Security Council documents.

Airspace 'Violations' 4-6 Jan

JN1001154494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers continue to provide facilities to the U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate Iraq's airspace. This poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to the Arab League secretary general yesterday, Iraq's permanent League representative said that on 4, 5, and 6 January these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, carrying out 157 hostile air sorties. A list attached to the letter gave details on these violations.

Cabinet Approves Increase in Bank Capital

JN0901142694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its weekly ordinary session today under Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended the meeting.

In its session today, the council reviewed the efforts of the Agriculture Ministry and the committees entrusted with carrying out the grand agricultural campaign for the 1993-94 winter season to fulfill the requirements of the campaign. The council decided to follow up in detail the implementation of the campaign and its results at the beginning of every weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The council discussed other topics on its agenda, and approved an increase in the capital of the Industrial Bank from 75 million dinars to 150 million to encourage investment by the private industrial sector and in response to the requests presented to the bank.

The council also discussed organizational matters, and adopted the required decisions and recommendations.

Barzan al-Tikriti on Peaceful Trends in 1994

JN1001090094 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Jan 94 p 8

["Viewpoint" column by Barzan al-Tikriti, half brother of President Saddam Husayn and Iraq's representative to the United Nations in Geneva: "The Burdens of Conflict, Regionalism, and Prospects for 1994"]

[Text] Today, I will not discuss specific developments, because such [future] developments can only be known to God. I will, instead, refer to certain events that may, in one way or another, influence the course of events. I will discuss two basic tracks. If these two tracks meet, they can influence events in a certain way, and if they clash, they will produce an opposite result.

The first track involves getting tired of the conflict or suffering, regardless of the form of that suffering. The second is the growing drift toward regionalism as a result of what happened in the Arab region, specifically in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

Planes sometimes crash. Despite all the thorough investigations they conduct, specialists fail to arrive at an obvious or direct result for the crash. Specialists and experts may say the crash is caused by "the fatigue of material," which sustained constant stresses for years and then, at a certain point in time, yielded to these stresses and failed.

Similarly, it seems to me that the world is now passing through what we may call "yielding to fatigue caused by conflict or other elements caused by conflict itself." Those who wish to refute this remark cannot use any ongoing conflicts anywhere as examples. Even in the midst of these conflicts, the eye can see obvious signs of fatigue. This fatigue was probably the real reason behind the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which is not allowed to fail. That fatigue may also be the reason behind the possibility of reaching peace in the Irish question, as well as other chronic, or so-called traditional, questions.

If this statement or argument is considered valid, then we can assume that several conflicts will come to an end in 1994. Based on this, one can say that the civil war in Afghanistan will end when a firm and final solution is reached; that peace treaties will be signed by the Arab states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict; that the war in (former) Yugoslavia will end with its partition into several ethnic, independent states; and that the Somalis will emerge from the quagmire into which they were pushed by the policies and conduct of Siad Birri and the Somali factions that are trying to inherit him, not because they love to serve Somalia and its people, but because they lust for power and hegemony. One can further say that matters between the two Yemens will not exacerbate and reach the point of a civil war or a semi-regular war for reasons every observer knows.

All these issues can be resolved if the decisive factor in such conflicts and disputes does not interfere. That decisive factor is regionalism, which, we can observe, is currently growing as a result or what happened in the region.

It is noteworthy that the world undergoes cycles of events similar to those of economy. We also note that some of these cycles witness a trend toward localization with all its characteristics and qualities. There is no room here to explain this phenomenon which we had earlier discussed in some detail in writings, some of which were published.

It seems that the world is currently passing through a cycle of acute regionalism. It is easy for those interested in or following up this trend to note that this cycle clearly exists in the Arab world more than anywhere else, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, including Iraq, in spite of the fact that this region is historically known for its pan-Arab feelings and orientations. We, however, reiterate that the feeling of regionalism was the result of what happened in this region—a region which endured more than its capacity. Some felt that they gave a great deal, but none reciprocated by giving them as much as they offered, not even a word of thanks and appreciation. What is more ironic is that they were destroyed by those for whose sake they gave and sacrificed.

Thus far, I cannot say there is any indication that this trend is subsiding. What exists is the opposite. Therefore, I can say that the new year will witness victories by the supporters of regionalism everywhere. Hence, I do not believe the Arab world will witness any serious attempt at unification neither in a general manner nor on the level of the regional entities. In the meantime, there are growing fears about the possibility of maintaining Iraq's unity. My reply to these fears is that Iraq will remain unified for several reasons. One of them is that what applies to Iraq also applies to the regional states for reasons known to all, unless these states accept what others decide for them or are unaware of what is taking place around them or inside their states.

There are certain facts which should be recognized by all states of diversified demographic structure. They should take the national, ethnic, religious, and other diversification into consideration. I clearly say that from the demographic perspective, Iraq, for example, should not live or behave as if it were a 100 percent Arab country nor should Turkey act as if it were 100 percent Turkish or Iran as 100 percent Persian. What applies to these states also applies to a certain extent to Syria and others. The regional conflicts afflicting Somalia, Yugoslavia, and Afghanistan will not easily end. These states will reach a degree of exhaustion which will make them accept a solution even for a period of time.

As for the Arab region, it will most likely witness changes in the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf states, and Egypt. The extremist, fundamentalist current will get more severe, violent, and widespread. The situation in Algeria will get more complicated, and things could get out of hand in this fraternal, struggling country. Also, the Libyan-Western crisis will get worse. The result will be in favor of the West if no changes and major positive developments take place in the Arab world. These developments are unlikely to happen. This means that Libya will regrettably stay on its own.

We are confronted then with a general feeling of fatigue as a result of protracted, bloody conflicts. This trend could lead to the achievement of peace in many parts of the world, including our region. This, however, depends on the courage of the decisionmakers to let bygones be bygones and turn over a new leaf by having a serious, realistic view of how things are going, despite all the bitterness involved. The purpose of this is to arrive at a new, sound framework that clarifies relations and precisely spells out rights and duties. Otherwise, things will take a different course, similar to what happened when we had blood and destruction, especially since these events were the outcome of what very brothers did even before more distant relatives came into the picture. We should also not forget that we have another trend that seeks to fragment the existing states and turn them into smaller entities. Should such a trend succeed, God forbid, it will spark new conflicts, especially if force were used, and this is not unlikely. It is common knowledge that force breeds violence, which is almost always a means to settle disputes, particularly in the Third World. Here, we lay special emphasis on the role of leaders and how much they absorb changes. If the concerned leaders realize that regional conflicts deserve much of their time and attention—and as such should be debated instead of having recourse to bullets—then it will be possible for the two trends to live together in peace. If, however, force has the final say, then the regional trend will most likely defeat fatigue and thus reinvigorate exhausted conflicts and disputes.

I sincerely hope that decisionmakers everywhere, especially in our region, will heed this fact.

Geneva, 31 December 1993.

Officials: Washington Talks Only After Taba

TA1101053994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in Washington will not be resumed together with other bilateral talks due to open in about 10 days. Officials in Jerusalem told Qol Yisra'el they wanted the Israel-PLO talks in Taba to conclude before a decision was made on reopening the negotiations in Washington. Israel will, however, send delegations to the American capital for the 12th round of talks with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Rabin Seen 'Uptight' at Clinton-al-Asad Summit

TA1101133394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jan 94 p B1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar: "Careful, Glass"]

[Text] Judging by the messages Yitzhaq Rabin has been relaying to Washington in anticipation of the Clinton-al-Asad summit, it is hard to tell what has him more worried: a summit that ends in a deep rift between the United States and Syria over the fate of the Middle East, or a joint statement by the two leaders about an understanding on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Syria and Israel in exchange for an arrangement on the Golan.

Whatever the case may be, the Americans are under the impression that Rabin is uptight about the Clinton-al-Asad meeting, and they have been sparing no effort to put him at ease. They agree with the notion that the prime minister cannot afford to talk about a withdrawal on the Golan while conducting tough negotiations about a withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza.

On the other hand, it is hard to envision a situation where the Syrian president informs Clinton that for the sake of normalization with the United States he is prepared to stomach normalization with Israel, including the opening of borders and embassies, and Clinton pleading with him to put off a decision until Rabin and 'Arafat reach an agreement. In such an event, Rabin and Clinton will have a problem. Rabin's problem will be with the Jews in Israel who are still having a hard time digesting the compromise in Jericho, while Clinton's will be with the Jews in America who were removed from the political agenda as a result of the Oslo agreement.

The very meeting with the U.S. President, who will be taking time off from his discussions about security in Europe, is seen by the Syrian president as quite a formidable achievement. Clinton's aides recall that three former U.S. Presidents also conferred with al-Asad, and that nothing could be more natural than a meeting with yet another regional leader taking part in the political process under U.S. orchestration.

This may very well be the way the Geneva summit appears from the American point of view, but al-Asad experts are sure that he will make it his business to depict the event in a totally different light. Even before shaking hands with his young counterpart and consoling him on the death of his mother, al-Asad scored important points with the Arab world. He can argue that all he had to do to obtain such prestigious publicity was to do nothing; neither to excessively obstruct the PLO in its negotiations with Israel, nor to demand that Arab leaders punish 'Arafat for deviating from their agreement to coordinate moves vis-a-vis Israel. He kept all options in his hands and did not budge from his fundamental positions, such as the demand for an Israeli withdrawal from all the territories. Ahmad Jibril, the murderer of U.S. soldiers in Berlin, is still being hosted in Damascus, and al-Asad makes no secret of his ties with Hizballah.

Rabin, Jewish functionaries, and U.S. officials fear that the U.S. President—who is eager for foreign policy achievements—will be tempted to buy glass beads from al-Asad and hug him as if they were diamonds. Al-Asad recently reminded us that the Americans are prepared to be grateful even for second-hand beads. Three times he promised to let go of the Jewish hostages in Damascus and Aleppo, and there are signs that he will sell them a fourth time, this time directly to the U.S. President. Clinton will then rush to talk about it in front of the U.S. television cameras which have a short memory.

The experts, led by Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, an Arabist and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, are telling Rabin that the shrewd Syrian president will not let such a rare opportunity slip through his fingers next Sunday [16 January]. The meeting with George Bush in the midst of the Gulf war and Syria's participation in the Madrid conference were prerequisites for the improvement of its relations with the West, but two years later these moves are deemed insufficient. As the Americans see it, he has not done enough when it comes to relations with Israel on the one hand, and with regard to Iran, North Korea, and terror on the other. If he concludes that he cannot "string along" Clinton, al-Asad may deliver the goods that will help the U.S. President justify the meeting and pave the way for more tangible changes in the future. Rabin is now trying to up the ante with regard to the public manifestation of the change in Syria's position and to make sure that al-Asad does not profit from the weaknesses of his U.S. interlocutor.

The prime minister should hope that Clinton arrives at the meeting with the Syrian president in high spirits, carrying positive press clippings about his talks with Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, Lech Walesa, and his NATO partners. Success in Europe will reduce the danger of Clinton searching for—and finding—consolation with al-Asad for his frustration in failing to encourage reforms in Russia, to cite just one example. The more the summit is depicted as a great achievement, the more the pressure will increase on Israel to pay its share for success on the Syrian track, despite the difficulties on the Palestinian track and at home. If it is real,

this achievement could be used to improve positions versus the PLO and the Likud.

Envoy: Israel-Syria Understanding 'by April'

TA1101055694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni predicts an understanding of principles will be signed between Syria and Israel by April. Basyuni spoke last night before the annual conference of WIZO, the Women's International Zionist Organization, in Tel Aviv. Reporter Dani Gur-Arye was there:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Ambassador Basyuni served as Egypt's military attache in Syria during the 1970's, and he is acquainted personally with President al-Asad. Basyuni says al-Asad is a tough negotiator, but he can be counted on to keep his word in any agreement signed. As an example, Basyuni cites the 1974 disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria:

[Basyuni] Since 1974, Syria kept their word, and no one violation of this agreement. What it means? It means if you sign agreement with the Syrians, they will keep it. They keep their words. Maybe they will be very tough in the negotiations, but they will keep their words after the negotiations, after reaching agreement. And, the case with Syria is very clear: If Israel will withdraw full withdrawal from Golan Heights, it will be full peace.

[Gur-Arye] Ambassador Basyuni predicts the negotiations between Syria and Israel will be renewed following the summit between President al-Asad and U.S. President Clinton next week in Geneva. He says 1994 will be a year of peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

Government Defeats No-Confidence Motion

TA1001190894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The government this evening survived a joint motion of no-confidence presented by Tzomet and the National Religious Party. Only 43 members of the house supported the motion, 57 opposed it, and two abstained. The debate centered around the statement by Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who said the current peace negotiations could lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Foreign Minister Peres said the government rejects the establishment of such a state because it opposes the presence of any foreign army west of the Jordan River. [passage omitted]

In presenting the no-confidence motion, Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Gonen Segev said the opposition would silence itself if the Labor party went back to the people with a new platform. In the meantime, MK Segev accused the government of violating the current Labor platform of opposing a Palestinian state and in favor of holding on to the Jordan Valley. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres responded to the no-confidence motion denying any deviation from the Labor party platform. He said the government is not discussing a Palestinian state in the current negotiations, only autonomy for the Palestinians, as stated in the party platform. [passage omitted]

Challenge to Netanyahu's Leadership Reviewed

TA1001182894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 94 p B2

[Article by Yerah Tal: "Now He Turns to the Skies for Help"]

[Text] Binyamin Netanyahu constantly manages to supply ammunition to his rivals. The latest round came last Friday [7 January] when he launched a public relations campaign entitled "The Likud's Information Airline," consisting of flights from Tel Aviv's Sede Dov Airfield to Jericho and back to illustrate the security dangers looming over Israel as a result of the implementation of the agreement with the PLO. "Netanyahu failed to get the masses out on the streets, and he is now trying his luck in the skies," said a senior Likud member commenting on the campaign. "A folly," said Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon. The latter does not take part in the airborne campaign and will continue his independent public relations campaign on the ground. As he usually does, he will stop at the same old spot near the settlement of Bet Arye overlooking Ben-Gurion Airport and lecture his audience about the dangers posed by a Palestinian state.

Sharon brought the internal ferment against Netanyahu's leadership to a peak last week when he announced his plans to run for the premiership. Two days earlier he described Netanyahu as "a man who got caught with his pants down, in more ways than one, but put the blame on others." Not to be outdone, Netanyahu retorted by accusing Sharon of "relentless subversion which began under Menahem Begin and continued under Yitzhaq Shamir, and now it is my turn." Over the weekend he even went as far as warning that "the Likud might once again enter a collision course."

His associates say that Netanyahu will henceforth change his ways and fight back. "I will not agree to be the punching bag of frustrated Likud members, as Yitzhaq Shamir was," he told his associates last week as he launched his counteroffensive. His men accused Sharon of encouraging a group of U.S. businessmen to accuse Netanyahu of diverting money collected for the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to the Likud's coffers. Sharon categorically denied it, but Netanyahu's men persisted. They leaked to the press that the Likud was forced to pay 40,000 shekels for a private information campaign Sharon conducted on the eve of the last Knesset election. This claim, too, was emphatically denied by Sharon. A journalist who nevertheless published it without seeking Sharon's comment was reprimanded after Sharon complained.

Netanyahu will hold his fire against the other "subversives"—David Levi, David Magen, and Dan Meridor—as long as they do not come out against him in public.

Still, Netanyahu's men have already warned them "not to stoke the fire." Rumors at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv have it that "Netanyahu's followers have compiled a dossier about each rival." Perhaps this is the reason why Magen refuses to be interviewed for Friday night's weekly newsreel on Channel 1. He asked the television people "to wait until February," by which time he will have finished gathering the data about the number of drop-outs from Likud ranks and exposing them to the public as part of his campaign to bring about new primaries. It is estimated that some 100,000 of the Likud's 250,000 registered members will have dropped out by then.

David Levi has adopted different tactics from that of Sharon and Magen, but not because he fears Netanyahu's reaction. His associates claim that his thundering silence is a calculated and well-planned move. Levi has learned from experience and is no longer willing to be the main opposition activist, with all others hiding behind him. His associates say that this time around Levi is waiting for others to do the job for him. However, most of those senior Likud members who question Netanyahu's leadership and sharply criticize him still prefer to do so off-the-record and in private meetings.

In the wake of the HA'ARETZ report about the secret contacts Magen has been holding in a bid to bring about new primaries in the Likud, in which Dan Meridor would run, Netanyahu's associates began collecting signatures against such a move. As was expected, Levi and Sharon did not sign it. Meridor and Beni Begin did, and went on to side publicly with Netanyahu in order to dispel reports that he had lent a hand to Magen's secret contacts. Some of the signatories sharply criticized Netanyahu in off-the-record talks, nevertheless, arguing that new primaries before the next Knesset elections are inevitable if the Likud really wants to return to power.

However, holding new primaries is not that simple. A clause Netanyahu introduced in the Likud's constitution actually guarantees his election as chairman of the Likud—who also is its candidate for the premiership—until the year 2000. A decision to hold new primaries before an elected chairman ends his term requires a 75-percent majority in the 3,600-member Likud Central Committee and such a majority would seem unattainable at the moment.

According to a poll conducted by Channel 2 over the weekend, Netanyahu still commands the support of 49 percent of the Likud (he got 52 percent in the primaries), compared with Sharon's 15 percent, Levi's 7 percent (as opposed to 27 percent in the primaries), and Meridor's 7 percent. Levi's men claim that the poll does not reflect reality and that support for Levi is larger. However, they too understand that he does not yet have the required majority to bring about new primaries, even if his followers were joined by those of Sharon and Meridor. Nevertheless, "when the time comes," Levi's followers (and not just them) plan to submit a motion to the Central Committee to hold primaries. Their idea is to attain over 50 percent of the vote, and depict it as a show of no confidence in Netanyahu. As they see it, such a move would pressure him to agree to primaries.

At the same time, Sharon's and Levi's followers are examining alternative scenarios and are not ruling out the possibility of a split. A group of Levi's followers, which includes his brother Maxim, believes that if the peace process succeeds the entire political map will change, and then it will be possible to set up a new political movement led by David Levi which will focus on socioeconomic issues. Maxim recently asked his brother to tone down his pronouncements against the peace process so as not to impair the chances of such an independent movement to attain the support of the political mainstream. However, it would seem from David Levi's latest statements that he has not been heeding this advice.

Ari'el Sharon has been saying that he will not bring about the disbandment of the Likud, and stressing that if and when he decides to run for the premiership he will want to do it only in the framework of the Likud. At the same time, he said he had no idea how to go about it in view of the obstacle posed by the Likud constitution. His followers argue that if he fails to bring about new primaries in the Likud he may collect 50,000 signatures to present his candidacy for the premiership in accordance with the new law. Likud members claim that through such a move Sharon would be driving himself out of the Likud. Despite Sharon's and Refa'el Eytan's denials, rumors persist in the political establishment about an ongoing dialogue between the two concerning the establishment of a new right-wing political movement. It has even been speculated that in such an event Eytan would be willing to give up running for the premiership and become Sharon's second-in-command. However, some in the Likud believe that Sharon's move was merely designed to neutralize Netanyahu through the creation of a collective leadership which would include all those who served as ministers in the Likud government, including David Levi.

Everybody agrees that developments in the Likud depend on the date of the next elections to the Knesset and the premiership. If Yosi Sarid's predictions come true and elections are brought forward either to the end of 1994 or the beginning of 1995 in anticipation of the signing of peace agreements, Netanyahu's rivals stand a very slim chance of challenging the Likud's leadership. It is believed that in such an event a formula will be found to reinstate Levi in the Likud's leadership as Netanyahu's second-in-command, perhaps on the basis of a proposal consolidated by Tzahi Hanegbi and Re'uven Rivlin. If the elections are held on schedule in 1996, some people in the Likud assess that the infighting at the top will lead to a new contest for the leadership of the party.

IDF Prepares for Gaza, Jericho Evacuation

TA1101080794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] No date has been set yet for the evacuation of IDF troops from the Gaza Strip or Jericho. Not a single Army unit or base has been evacuated. The date will be set in accordance with the agreement reached by Israel and the Palestinians. Nonetheless, the IDF Logistics Branch has begun employing outside contractors and IDF teams at dozens of locations in the Gaza Strip and Jericho to prepare the sites for the evacuated IDF units on the date to be determined. It is believed, however, that the work will go on for several months after the evacuation decision is made.

The cost of the evacuation of Gaza and Jericho is estimated at some 500 million shekels. So far, an expenditure of approximately 230 million shekels has been approved, of which dozens of millions of shekels have already been spent, and this sum does not include the cost of works on roads, travel axes, and measures to protect the settlements.

The Army has began infrastructure work at the alternative site set aside for the IDF units that will be evacuated from Jericho. It has been learned that the site is being constructed southeast of Jericho, near the settlement of Mul Nevo.

The IDF is scheduled to complete the construction of the electronic fence that will surround the Gaza Strip by April 1995. The barrier will include intrusion-tracking dirt roads, a paved road, an obstacle fence, and the electronic fence itself. The barrier will be 50 meters in width, 65 km in length, and will cost 100 million shekels. It has been decided that several contractors will work simultaneously in order to finish building the fence that will protect the settlements inside the Green Line on time. The other fence that is designed to surround the Qatif Bloc will be 17 km in length. It will also be an alarm fence, although this is not yet final.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 January carries a related report by Sharon Sade on page A3, adding that recent estimates drawn up by the Finance Ministry and the defense establishment indicate that if the evacuated troops were "to take over uninhabited buildings in the Gaza Strip settlements of Pe'at Sade and Nisanit, the IDF could save approximately 25 million shekels." The report adds that "the defense establishment is finding it hard to obtain the consent of the representatives of the religious settlements." According to defense establishment estimates, the settlement of Netzarim's refusal to allow the IDF to set up a post in the settlement "will result in an expenditure of approximately 5 million shekels on the construction of a separate outpost."]

Settlement Leaders End Support for 'Campaign'

TA1001180294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has withdrawn its support for the campaign to double the number of settlements in the territories by adding mini-settlements next to existing ones. After a joint meeting of the council and the campaign management, the council sent a letter to settlement leaders in the territories saying that after an in-depth review of the issue, it was decided not to implement the campaign because of the many problems that have cropped up. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that settlement leaders are concerned that a campaign in which dozens of outposts are set up in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will not gain public support. At the same time, settlement leaders are planning a campaign to locate and demarcate state lands in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip with the aid of authorized surveyors.

Grenade Wounds 2 Servicemen in Khan Yunus

TA1001114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Two Israeli servicemen, one a soldier and the other a border policeman, have been lightly wounded in Khan Yunus. They sustained their injuries when a fragmentation grenade was thrown at a TV crew working on behalf of the Army spokesman, documenting events in the Strip before the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullout. As the area was combed, rioting broke out, during which a young Palestinian was injured and taken to hospital.

Hizballah Announcement on MIA's: 'Good News'

TA1001140494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said today that Hizballah's announcement that it will agree to provide details about Israeli MIA's only to international organizations is good news. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that during a tour of northern Israel with the committee of ministerial directors, Sheves asserted that the U.S. congressional delegation currently in Syria should be allowed to look into the affair unimpeded.

Military Industries Providing Weapons to Romania

TA1001130394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Israel's Military Industries is now providing weapons to Romania as part of a deal worth more than $90 million. Among the items, Israel is supplying tank and artillery shells said to be four times more effective than those manufactured in Eastern Europe. In an interview with a local ex-servicemen's magazine, Dan Shomron, chairman of the Military Industries, also revealed that a new detachable fuel tank had been developed locally for F-16 warplanes, increasing the flight range by a fifth.

Japanese Vice Minister Meets With Leadership

TA0901180694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] The top political echelons today held meetings with Hiroshi Fukuda, the Japanese vice minister of

foreign affairs, who is here on a lightning visit. Since Japan maintains a wide-ranging relationship with Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin briefed the guest on the MIA's issue. The Japanese vice minister also met with Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, both of whom raised the importance of closer economic relations between the two countries and the issue of El Al's landing privileges in Japan. Shim'on Sheves told the visiting vice minister that the situation in which Israel buys $1 billion worth of Japanese goods, while Japan avoids investing in Israel, is unacceptable.

Kenyan President Moi Pays Official Visit

Received by Peres, Weizman

EA0901165794 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi this afternoon arrived in Israel for a four-day official visit. President Moi arrived at Ben Gurion International Airport to a red-carpet welcome. He was received by the Israel foreign affairs minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, and thereafter drove to Jerusalem where he inspected a colorful guard of honor mounted by a detachment of Israeli Armed Forces. President Moi also visited the Garden of Roses where he was received by the president of Israel, Mr. Ezer Weizman. At the Garden of Roses, President Moi congratulated President Weizman on the signing of the peace accord between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation last September. President Moi said that it was a courageous act, adding that they had the best wishes from Kenyans in overcoming the obstacles which still stand in the way of enduring peace and security.

President Moi said that he was happy to be visiting Israel at a time when real opportunity for peace in the Middle East was in sight. President Moi expressed his confidence that his visit to Israel will further strengthen the relations between the two countries. President Moi also laid a wreath of flowers at the cemetery of founders of the nation of Israel. [passage omitted]

Moi Confers With Rabin, Peres

TA0901195694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin conferred this afternoon with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. Kenya would like Israel to help it obtain aid from the United States, to expand its agricultural assistance, and to grant more scholarships to Kenyan students. President Moi told Mr. Rabin about his visits in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 9 January reports that "President Daniel arap Moi informed Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in a meeting in Jerusalem this evening that Kenya will open an embassy in Israel. President Moi stressed that Kenya has deep and special feelings toward the Israeli people. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz points out that Israel already has an ambassador in Nairobi. Minister Peres told the visiting president that Israel would like to expand and enhance its agricultural, technological, and scientific ties with Kenya."]

Moi Praises Peace Accord

EA1001112394 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0400 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi yesterday said that the signing of the Middle East peace accord in September last year was an important milestone in the development of Israel. He said the historic occasion could only have been possible as a result of the courage and patriotism of the Jewish people. [passage omitted]

President Moi was speaking at State House, Jerusalem, in Israel during a state banquet hosted in his honor by President Ezer Weizman of Israel. President Moi noted that his visit to Israel marks the first visit by a Kenyan head of state since independence 30 years ago. [passage omitted] President Moi looked forward to a fruitful cooperation and friendship between Israel and Kenya.

President Weizman noted that since President Moi took over the leadership of Kenya, he has shown political wisdom and courage, thus making Kenya an island of stability and economic prosperity in the region. Noting that President Moi immensely contributed to the relations between Kenya and Israel, President Weizman said the visit to the Holy Land was the beginning of a new chapter in bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

President Weizman said cooperation between the two countries was multifaceted. He pointed out that scientists from Kenya and Israel were working together on agricultural research. President Weizman further noted that the economic relations between the two countries had developed to a great extent but added that a lot could still be done. He expressed hope that when peace reigns in the Middle East, Israel will be a bridge of cooperation between Africa as a continent and the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Banking Agreement Reached

TA1001142894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The Bank of Israel will assist the Central Bank of Kenya as part of an agreement reached in Jerusalem this morning. This was worked out by the governors of the two banks, Israel's Ya'aqov Frenkel, and Kenya's (Mika Hezram). Aid will be given in market development and foreign currency transactions, as well as other related monetary matters. The meeting of the governors followed talks between Israel's prime minister and the visiting president of Kenya.

Education, Culture Agreements Signed

TA1001140794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] At noon today Israel and Kenya signed cooperation agreements in the fields of education, culture, and science. According to the agreements, a joint committee will be set up to oversee their implementation.

Moi Urges Investment in East Africa

AB1001200494 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today called on those countries torn by civil strife to emulate Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, who after more than four decades of war, have agreed to negotiate for a lasting peaceful solution. Noting that peace in the Middle East is of great significance to the whole world, President Moi said it was proved that no conflict is impossible to resolve amicably. The president therefore hoped that the avenues for peace that have so far been opened up will lead to everlasting peace in the Middle East.

President Moi at the same time called on Israeli investors to look to Kenya and East Africa as an area (?ripe) for investment and to join hands in partnership with the region. President Moi was speaking during a luncheon hosted in his honor by the Israeli prime minister, Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, during his second day in that country.

On the civil strife in Somali, the president once again pleaded with leaders of the various factions to appreciate the dignity of human life and give peace a chance. He noted that civil strife in that country continued to have significant implications in neighboring countries, especially Kenya. On the Sudan, however, President Moi said that mediation efforts are being made by the member states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, IGADD, of which he is the chairman. The president hoped that peace will eventually return to southern Sudan. President Moi expressed his satisfaction at the development taking place in South Africa, despite the problems which must be overcome before final and sustainable harmony is achieved.

The president commended the Israelis for their great achievements in sectors of development like in agriculture, technology and particularly in irrigation. He observed that Israel faced similar problems to those facing Kenya and cited uncertain rains, extensive arid land and infertile soils but which he said had not stopped Israel from developing. He added that the Government of Kenya values cooperation in all aspects of development—cultural, economical, political and technological. However, he said there was need to strengthen that cooperation. Later President Moi and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, on behalf of their governments, signed an agreement on culture, science and education.

Moi Praises Parliamentary System

EA1001223694 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today announced in Jerusalem that Kenya will soon open an embassy in Israel. He further announced the posting of a Kenyan ambassador to Israel will be done in the next few months. The president made the announcement while addressing a session of the Israeli parliament this afternoon in Jerusalem.

President Moi said that parliamentary democracy remains the only form of government in which the two ideals of a democratic society are protected. The president added that although there are some fundamental principles in any society such as the right to freedom, justice, property and protection of life, every society has its own specific homegrown characteristics and principles. He explained that it was in a mixture of these principles that a true democratic society could evolve.

Describing the Israeli parliamentary institution as one of the most well developed in the world, the president said those Kenyan members of parliament with him will no doubt learn from the Israeli practice of parliamentary democracy. President Moi said that Kenya had benefited immensely from the business activities of the Jewish people and companies, particularly in civil engineering and trade. He hoped his visit will consolidate those ties for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

And on the situation in this region, President Moi told the Israeli parliamentarians that today Kenya hosts the seventh largest refugee population in the world mainly from Somalia. He added that apart from being a strain on Kenya's limited resources there was also serious insecurity in many parts of the country as some of the refugees carry with them sophisticated weapons as they flee their country into Kenya.

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, said in a speech read on his behalf by the Israeli minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Shim'on Peres, that Kenya and Israel shared a common history of struggle to liberate their peoples from oppression. Mr. Rabin praised Kenya for the role it had played in support of Israel in many issues that are of interest to the country. The Knesset session was also addressed by the leader of the opposition in parliament who is also the chairman of the Likud party Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu. [passage omitted]

Other reports say that President Moi this evening held discussions with the leader of the opposition in Israel, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, at the King David Hotel. And later President Moi hosted a colorful reception at the same hotel that was attended by President Ezer Weizman of Israel, senior government officials, the leader of the opposition and members of the diplomatic corps. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali Views Latest Regional Developments

JN1001193894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today met with foreign journalists at the Prime Ministry, and took questions about latest regional and local developments.

The prime minister announced that His Majesty King Husayn is to meet with President Bill Clinton after 20 January. Dr. al-Majali said the session will help the peace talks and ties between Jordan and the United States, particularly in the economic area. Movement on the other tracks, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, will reflect positively on the other fronts, the prime minister said.

Asked about the upcoming meeting between the Syrian and U.S. Presidents in Geneva, al-Majali stated that Jordan and all the partners to the Middle East peace process are hopeful it will yield positive results. In its contacts, he added, Jordan has underlined the comprehensiveness of the peace process and that any headway made in one of the tracks is bound to extend to other tracks.

The prime minister was asked how happy Jordan was with the agreement reached with the Palestinians on 7 January. We are quite happy with it, al-Majli said. The points on which agreement was reached, he added, meet realistic expectations and directly benefit the Palestinians as they now truly feel that they have a partner and support in us. We are brothers bound by distinguished ties, and as partners, the talks of the Palestinians with the Israelis are bound to rub off on us. As for the sense of urgency the Jordanians had shown in regard to the agreement with the Palestinians, al-Majali said: I'll turn the question around and ask why such an agreement with our Palestinian brothers should wait. Right from the beginning of the economic talks, the Palestinians were visibly anxious to get an economic agreement with us. Two lengthy meetings of the joint committee with the Palestinians produced a draft agreement, but the Palestinian side, the prime minister noted, slowed up and chose to wait. Jordan impressed on them the importance of signing it in the interest of a clearly defined bilateral relationship and so that they talk with the Israelis against the background of a clear picture. Jordan, noted al-Majali, has numerous institutions and the kind of multifaceted experience that the brother Palestinians may draw on.

On inter-Arab ties, the prime minister stressed that Jordan is working in good faith to have the best of relations with all Arab states, especially with brothers in the Arabian Gulf states. Jordan, he pointed out, has met with some success in this regard, noting the receptiveness of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Oman, with which Jordan already had close relations. The prime minister wished these relations would grow ever stronger and extend to the rest of the brotherly Arab states, noting that Egypt is working in that direction.

Al-Majali Blames Media for Strains With Gulf

JN1101110294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jan 94 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali Monday [10 January] blamed the Jordanian media for continued strains in relations between the Kingdom and Gulf states as well as what he described as "wrestling" between the government and Parliament.

"Unfortunately, and I say it clearly, the Jordan media play a part in not getting this relations back (with Gulf states)," Dr. al-Majali told reporters in response to a question about Arab-Arab relations.

"Everytime we almost get it back, a couple of articles go in some of the media and it becomes strained again," Dr. al-Majali said.

In response to another question about whether the government will work to upgrade and facilitate the institutions of democracy such as Parliament, Dr. al-Majali said that the media was also a reason behind the tension between his Cabinet and Parliament in an obvious reference to the gruelling confidence session in December.

"The tension was drawn by the media," the prime minister said, adding that an article appeared which caused tension that had not existed until its publication. The prime minister was most probably referring to comments ahead of the confidence session that described the newly elected deputies as "docile."

Asked why his government had a "tug of war over freedom of expression" with the Jordanian media in general, Dr. al-Majali said that this was not true and that he did not think there was tension between the two. But he added that "sometimes" the media "takes a little thing and they don't study it properly and then blow it" out of all proportions.

The prime minister explained that while the Kingdom's relations with Gulf states, and especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, were improving, they continued to face setbacks because of critical opinion pieces or reports in the press.

He said his government had received communiques from Gulf states protesting the criticism in the Jordanian media and are unconvinced that the government is not behind the reports.

"A couple of articles come up, the second day we get into trouble over them—the second day, it does not even go to the third," the premier added. "They think that we have control over the media, that we tell you what to write and what not to write. And you know this is not true," the premier said.

"We hope that the media would take this concern into account, do they want this relation to be back, then they could help it return rather than to stir things against it."

He said that while the Kingdom was gratified by the success of its goodwill overtures with the United Arab Emirates and Qatar he hoped that the same will happen with Saudi Arabia.

"We hope our relations with Saudi Arabia would improve," Dr. al-Majali said, adding that contacts between the two countries "are good now but have not reached the level we want."

"We are trying to ask the media to please stop adding oil to the fire," Dr. al-Majali said, adding that "nothing is going to change if we keep criticising them. But the situation will change if we meet them and talk to them."

Dr. al-Majali also criticised the United States and other Western countries for failing to facilitate reconciliation between Jordan and the Gulf Arab states.

"Western countries, including the united States, have not been doing enough to mend Jordan's relations with other Arabs," Dr. al-Majali said.

"We know that Egypt is trying its best," he said. "But the West is not, and I do not know whether that is because of a bad feeling about what has taken place during the Gulf war."

'Abd-al-Shafi Briefs 'Reformists' on Peace Talks

JN0801203294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] Palestinian chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said he would not lead the Palestinian team to the next round of Middle East peace talks because he did not support the Israeli-PLO pact.

'Abd-al-Shafi told Reuter television that he had decided, right from the beginning, to distance himself from having any role in the deal. He said this was his final decision.

'Abd-al-Shafi made the remarks shortly after arriving in Amman from Tunis where he pressed Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat for reforms.

The Gaza doctor, who is now spearheading Palestinian efforts to curb 'Arafat's power and introduce democratic reforms in the PLO, said he told the president of the mood of the people.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] We wanted, first of all, to make Chairman 'Arafat aware of the needs of the situation, and I think we did that very well. We made him aware of the mood of the people, of what do we expect, and certainly, I mean, in terms of reform, it is mainly the democratic practice within the PLO organizations. [end recording]

Tonight, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi headed a meeting of Palestinian reformists at the Palestine National Council offices in Amman. He briefed them on his visit and talks in Tunis and the PLO leadership's response. He said the PLO had asked him to contact the opposition inside and outside the occupied territories to begin a national dialogue on reform.

Palestinian Ambassador on Agreement, Commission

JN1001203794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The Palestinian ambassador in Amman, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, was asked by our correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab for his reaction to the re-forming of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs and the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Rahim] For us, the agreement is a major accomplishment that would serve to consolidate our national and pan-Arab identities. The agreement virtually strengthens us with a shield, and that is brotherly Jordan. It will help us build an infrastructure for our coming national entity.

[Dhiyab] Yesterday, the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs was reactivated and renamed, assuming an Arab and Islamic dimension, as well as the local one.

['Abd-al-Rahim] We want to see the Jerusalem Committee firm up the Arab presence in Jerusalem and counter attempts to suppress that presence so that, when the final stage of a settlement comes, we will be talking about real and identifiable Arab features that have withstood Israel's attempts to erase the Arab civilization in Jerusalem. The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees are to meet in the near future and build on the economic agreement.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Ambassador: Have you had any reaction from inside the occupied territory?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Absolutely. Our people in the occupied territory are quite happy with this agreement. As you know, our people there are linked to our brother Jordanian people with close bonds. Whatever pleases the Jordanian people will please them there. I can't see a separation of the two peoples. Our people in the occupied land are just as happy with the agreement as our brother Jordanians. I had congratulations from large sections of our people—organizations, trade unions, and other institutions—calling for a further reinforcement of this distinguished relationship, sponsored by His Majesty King Husayn and brother Yasir 'Arafat. [end recording]

Al-'Anani on Opening of Banks in West Bank

JN1001124094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jan 94 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian banks which used to have branches in the occupied West Bank prior to 1967 will be allowed to reopen one branch each in the next two months, Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said Sunday [9 January].

Dr. al-'Anani, a Jordanian strategist in Middle East peace talks who played a key role in finalising an economic cooperation agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation on Friday, said opening of new banks would be considered after giving priority to those which had branches in the occupied West Bank on June 4, 1967—one day before the war started.

Eight Jordanian banks had 31 branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when Israel occupied the territories. Those in the West Bank followed Jordanian laws. All banks in the Gaza Strip, including two branches of two Jordanian banks, were governed by Egyptian regulations.

Cairo-Amman Bank reopened in 1986 under a special arrangement, but it had to curtail its branches' activities mainly to money changing because of Israeli regulations.

Palestinians could not get loans from the bank for two reasons: first: the bank had to deposit 110 per cent of the loan amount with the bank of Israel and second, the Palestinians were reluctant to mortgage their land as collateral for fear of seizures by the bank and the eventuality that an Israeli might end up as the ultimate buyer of the land.

The accord finalised Friday after three days of talks sets out a broad framework for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. Among other things, it clears the way for Jordan to implement a memorandum of understanding it signed with Israel on Dec. 1 on reopening the bank branches.

Dr. al-'Anani said priority would also be given to banks applying to reopen branches in Jericho and the Gaza Strip in view of a request made by the Palestinian negotiators.

The West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip are expected to be transferred to limited Palestinian self-rule authority in line with the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement between Israel and the PLO.

The main base of the self-rule authority is expected to be located in Jericho.

Dr. al-'Anani said CBJ regulations would be applicable to banks in the West Bank as well as the Gaza Strip. The memo signed with Israel on Dec. 1 provides for reopening the branches in the West Bank and, as officials said later, Jordan had to work out a separate accord on the Gaza Strip.

Under the memo, the Bank of Israel will issue a token approval for the banks already licensed by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). The obligations of the reopened branches to the Bank of Israel will be limited to sending a periodic report on their activities.

Dr. al-'Anani said the permission to reopen one branch each will be followed by permissions for others. But in the beginning, each of the banks will be allowed to open only one branch.

A joint Jordanian-Palestinian technical committee will work under the guidance of the CBJ in processing the reopening of the branches.

The joint panel will also set monetary policies aimed at protecting and maintaining the stability of the Jordanian dinar.

The seven branches that the Cairo-Amman Bank operates in the occupied territories now would also be brought under total CBJ control, after ending the 1986 arrangement, Dr. al-'Anani said.

Dr. al-'Anani noted that the economic agreement also provides for the use of other currencies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but that it excludes the Israeli shekel.

Israel said that the shekel would have to remain in circulation in the autonomous territory; palestinian officials say that it would be impossible to eliminate the shekel altogether from the occupied lands during the interim period, particularly that tens of thousands of Palestinians would continue to be employed in Israel and be paid in the Israeli currency.

Israeli officials have suggested that the Palestinians could issue a currency similar to the Scotish pound. Although issued by Scotland as a sign of Scotish identity, the currency remains under the control of the bank of England.

The Egyptian pound, which was in force in the Gaza Strip until Israel seized the costal strip from Egypt in the 1967 war, will be among the currencies in circulation.

The pound is sparingly used in the Gaza Strip now. According to reports, only Gazans wishing to travel to Egypt across the Rafah border buys Egyptian pounds for use in Egyptian territory.

According to PLO sources, the use of Egyptian pounds in the autonomous territories is part of commitments that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has made to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, with whom he has stepped up coordination.

Mr. 'Arafat, who seems to have abandoned for the moment the idea of issuing a Palestinian currency during the interim period, also reportedly sees the use of more than one Arab currency in the autonomous territory as a symbol of Palestinian links with the Arabs while asserting Palestinian independence.

Bank Governor Denies Dinar Devalued

JN0901201394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 94 p 24

[Excerpts] Amman—Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] Governor Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi has once again categorically denied that the Jordanian dinar will be devalued. He said that there are certain quarters inside and outside Jordan that like to spread rumors on the dinar's rate of exchange for various reasons. He recalled that the 1989 devaluation should be viewed as an isolated incident in over 40 years.

Speaking to AL-DUSTUR yesterday through the "Face the Press" rubric, Dr. al-Nabulsi said the increase in the U.S. dollar's exchange rate against the Jordanian dinar over the past three months was caused by the large increase in the dollar's rate of exchange against the other major currencies in the world. He denied that there is a policy to gradually devalue the dinar against the U.S. dollar. [passage omitted]

On the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement that was signed on Friday, and its provisions on the reopening of the banks that were closed in the occupied Palestinian cities, Dr. al-Nabulsi said that the CBJ has asked the concerned banks to submit new applications to the CBJ for reopening their branches there. He emphasized that the CBJ is now waiting for the green light from the council of ministers to start implementing this provision of the agreement and to make the necessary arrangements for this. He said that the Israeli side promised to facilitate the tasks of the inspectors and controllers from the CBJ who will be charged with supervising the branches of the Jordanian banks there.

Dr. al-Nabulsi explained that the Jordanian-Israeli economic agreement stipulates the opening of bank branches in two stages; the first, for the banks that had branches there and were closed in June 1967, and the second for the banks that will open new branches there. At the present time, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement covers only those banks that had branches there before. He added: However, all these things will be discussed and followed up through the joint committee that the agreement created. He said that the reopening of the previously closed bank branches will take place gradually. He said that the first thing to do is to discuss how many branches each bank will be allowed to open. He said eight Jordanian banks had 31 branches in the Palestinian cities. He said that Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel should approve the reopening of any branch.

On the Kingdom's currency reserves, Dr. al-Nabulsi said that they are constantly increasing. These reserves dropped momentarily last year when Jordan recovered a large part of its foreign debt. He said: We paid the price of $400 million to purchase foreign debts worth more than $1.5 billion. [passage omitted]

Members of Jerusalem Affairs Committee Named

JN0901165894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the Hashemite Jordanian position on the Palestine question in general, and the issue of Jerusalem in particular, has been an honorable one based on enlightened principles of right and justice free of delusion and ambiguity and incapable of change or alteration. He added: Jerusalem is Arab and Islamic; its covenant is 'Umarite [a pledge Caliph 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab gave to Christians when he entered Jerusalem]; and its safeguard is Hashemite and is based on the determination of Husayn Bin-'Ali, who is buried there, and the vision of 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, its martyr. It is along their path that we are marching.

In a letter to Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, ordering the re-formation of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs under the chairmanship of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, his majesty the king added: On the blessed occasion of al-Isra' and al-Mi'raj [Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven], we redouble our faith in the value of holy shrines and Jerusalem—this immortal city which has recently been witnessing a difficult and complicated situation and is facing an ambiguous destiny, something that underscores our duty toward it. It is dear to us and lies deep into our hearts. We feel that any Arab or Islamic relinquishment regarding it will be recorded in history with pain and regret.

His Majesty King Husayn said: In order for the committee to shoulder its noble responsibilities, achieve its lofty aims, and follow up every affair related to Jerusalem and the holy shrines in the religious, historical, political, cultural, information, and legal domains, we order that the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs be re-formed under the chairmanship of my dear brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the membership of the following: His Excellency Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, His Excellency Ahmad al-Talib al-Ibrahimi, His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad al-Khalil, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Mukhtar al-Salami, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Taqiy-al-Din al-'Uthmani, His Eminence Dr. Fadil al-Husayn al-Jilani, His Eminence Shaykh Isma'il Bin-'Ali al-Akwa', His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, his excellency the minister of information, his eminence the chief justice, His excellency the minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, his excellency the minister of state for foreign affairs, His Excellency Dr. Hazim Nusaybah, His Excellency 'Abdallah Salah, His Excellency Dr. Jamal Nasir, His Excellency Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, His Excellency Dr. Nasir-al-Din al-Asad, Bishop Salim al-Sa'igh, Bishop Samir Qaf'iti, His Excellency Dr. Muhammad 'Adnan al-Bakhit, Father Qustantin Qarmash, and His Excellency 'Awn al-Khasawinah.

His Majesty King Husayn had earlier sent a letter to Akram Zu'aytir, expressing his profound thanks and appreciation for him and for the [former] members of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs.

Paper Views Jordanian-Palestinian Accord

JN0801125594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Sigh of Relief"]

[Text] The minister of Information, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, put it appropriately yesterday, after the signing of the Jordanian-PLO economic agreement, when he said that the accord would be comforting for the two peoples in

Jordan and Palestine. Indeed the seemingly tense atmosphere that characterised the otherwise warm relations between the leaderships of Jordan and Palestine was disturbing for people on both sides of the Jordan River.

A majority of Jordanians and Palestinians supported the start of the peace talks in Madrid in 1991. They saw in Jordan providing an umbrella for the Palestinian side a good omen and a strong indication at the depth of ties between the two peoples. Then, and thanks to the persistence of Palestinian negotiators and the skill of the Jordanian team led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, it was possible for the Palestinians to wrest from the Israelis recognition of their status as an independent team.

Then the Palestinians and the Israelis arrived at their declaration of principles in secret talks in Oslo. That took Jordanians and everybody else by surprise. Yet Jordan chose, after absorbing the shock, to declare its full support for the agreement and for the Palestinian negotiators. And one day after the historic accord was signed between PLO and Israel in Washington on Sept. 13, Jordan went ahead and signed its own agenda for the peace talks that was otherwise ready long before but waiting for progress on the Palestinian track.

Unfortunately, the Palestinian brothers were so submerged in their bargaining with the Israelis that they relegated their coordination with the Jordanians. Jordan, of course, would not have protested had it not been for the fact that every aspect of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis would, one way or the other, affect Jordan. Hence, His Majesty King Husayn's warning last week: Coordinate or else let each of us go his own way.

Whether that warning was behind the sending its negotiating team to Amman on Wednesday is besides the point. What has apparently transpired is a comprehensive agreement between the two sides on most of the issues affecting their negotiations with Israel and understanding to hold more frequent coordination talks between them.

Now that the two sides have settled the dispute, people in Jordan and the occupied territories can focus their efforts on the means to strengthening peace prospects. Meanwhile, the two sides need to keep the momentum and work together for the good of their peoples.

AL-DUSTUR Praises Agreement

JN0801123094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jan 94 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "A Positive Step on a Long Path"]

[Text] We receive the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement with much optimism, hope, and confidence in the future. We also look forward to further clear and strong relations based on confidence and cooperation between two peoples who have the same aspirations, objectives, and march. This march is embodied in unbreakable ties linking our kinsfolk on the eastern and western sides of the River [Jordan].

The success that has been achieved comes to crown and respond to His Majesty King Husayn's directives, calls, and wise views regarding the need to establish clear, firm, and serious Jordanian-Palestinian relations. It also comes as a response to King Husayn's eagerness that bilateral coordination should actually be entrenched on the ground and not on paper, and that the sons of our one people should feel both the results and positive aspects of this agreement in their practical daily life and not in words and wishes.

The current formula of this agreement affirms that the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships wish to outline the features of joint cooperation in the face of developments, and that they also want to confront the challenges and dangers of this phase. This agreement fulfills our masses' aspirations for preserving the elements of their existence and safeguarding a free future and a decent life for their generations. Such a life would put the interests of Jordanians and Palestinians within a bilateral framework and give them a pan-Arab dimension away from the Israeli attempts to control the destinies of the two peoples and confiscate the free and independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

The common interest of both peoples requires circumventing all the residues and repercussions of the previous phase. It also requires removing the seeds of doubt and mistrust which the Israelis are trying to plant in a clear Arab soil. This fact, whose political and economic dimensions were affirmed by His Majesty King Husayn last week, has imposed itself on the atmosphere of the talks and disappointed all those who wagered on the inability of both sides to overcome obstacles. It has also disappointed those who believed that bilateral dialogue and interpretations would develop into a state of estrangement and differences, so they would realize their dreams, ambitions, and conspiracies.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement—along with the economic and financial cooperation issues it addresses—constitutes a step on a long path. However, it is a large and serious step and is part of a larger framework which would pave the way for agreement on all issues that are being raised and that concern the supreme interests of both sides such as Jerusalem, the refugees and displaced people, water, borders, and security in a spirit of joint responsibility and concern for the principles of coordination, solidarity, and cohesion in the battle of peace in order to regain both the occupied territories and the usurped rights.

The Jordanian leadership and people have always stood alongside the Palestinian brothers in their just and legitimate struggle to regain their territories, rights, sovereignty over their national soil, and free self-determination. Moreover, King Husayn's affirmations of continued adherence to this pan-Arab principle as part of Jordan's policy on the Palestine question will

increase confidence that the march will proceed. This is because the agreement greatly embodies the fateful solidarity which links Jordan and Palestine. This solidarity also prompts the sons of our one people to champion the brothers and kinsfolk in the occupied territories and holy Jerusalem. The agreement also increases confidence that this cohesive march will continue and be enhanced despite all obstacles, challenges, and pressures on various levels and in all fields. It is hoped that the framework of this march will expand under a more comprehensive Arab coordination and on all fronts of confrontation with the enemy as part of the battle for peace and survival.

Al-Farhan Reelected IAF Secretary General

JN0801100094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Islamic Action Front's (IAF) executive office Thursday [6 January] selected Ishaq al-Farhan as its secretary-general, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat as deputy secretary-general. The office also selected Muhammad 'Uwaydah and Ahmad Tanash, as administrative and financial assistants respectively. The executive office also accepted the resignation of 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, who was elected in absentia as member of the executive office. The office named Ziyad Khalifah, the first alternate member, as Mr. al-'Ukur's replacement.

King Receives Omani Envoy, Qabus Message

JN0801202594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] His majesty the king received Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, who arrived in Amman this evening on a two-day visit to the kingdom.

The Omani envoy delivered a verbal message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on bilateral ties.

Tonight's audience, which is still in progress, dealt with regional, Arab, and international developments, the Middle East peace process, and means to restore Arab solidarity.

The Omani envoy arrived in Amman this evening on a two-day visit to Jordan. In an arrival statement, Mr. Bin-'Alawi said his country supports any endeavor towards achieving peace in the region. He described the signing of a Jordanian-PLO agreement yesterday as a step in the right direction. The Omani minister also said that Oman supports efforts to achieve Arab solidarity.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan, who welcomed the Omani guest at the airport, said the visit would enhance and strengthen the already strong ties between Jordan and Oman.

Minister Comments on Talks, Departs

JN0901180094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Amman for Damascus today after a two-day visit to Jordan. During his visit he met with His Majesty King Husayn and several senior Jordanian officials. Details are in the following report:

In a press statement prior to his departure, the Omani minister said that he was honored to have been received by His Majesty King Husayn. He added that he relayed an oral message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus to his majesty the king on issues of common interest and current Arab issues. He went on to say that he listened to a detailed explanation from His Majesty King Husayn on various pan-Arab issues, as well as Jordan's prominent role in aiding the peace process. The Omani minister continued: The remarks that I have heard from His Majesty King Husayn regarding the Jordanian perspective toward the future of this region, as well his eagerness to promote Arab interests within the context of peace were heartening. He noted that he met this morning with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. This was a continuation of the talks I held with his majesty the king yesterday. Both sides agreed to identify a mechanism for coordination on various political issues that concern the two fraternal countries, he said. He noted that a joint committee has been formed to follow up on all bilateral trade and economic issues. He hoped that the desire of His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus to seize all possible opportunities to promote bilateral ties will be realized.

In reply to a question on the efforts made by the Sultanate of Oman to achieve inter-Arab reconciliation, the minister said: Just like all fraternal Arabs, we look forward to see the Arabs identify a common ground for inter-Arab action and Arab solidarity. I believe that the circumstances now are more opportune for achieving this goal than they were in the past. He added: We support and back the efforts and endeavors made by the Arab League secretary general to achieve something along the road of joint Arab action and Arab solidarity.

When asked about the United Arab Emirates [UAE]-Iran dispute on the three islands, Bin-'Alawi said: I can say that the UAE-Iranian dispute has continued to be discussed by the two countries in the hope of reaching a peaceful settlement. As for the UAE brothers, they have consistently said that they want to see this dispute resolved peacefully within the context of legitimate rights. I believe that Iran is demonstrating a favorable response in this regard. I hope that future developments will yield a solution to this dispute.

On the Omani minister's visit, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that His Majesty King Husayn has met with the guest minister. The meeting was cordial and fraternal. The talks focused on

issues of common interest, including fraternal bilateral ties, the peace process, as well as the ways and means of fostering these issues.

Al-Hasan added: This morning, the talks were resumed. They focused on the means of promoting and enhancing bilateral economic and trade ties within the context of the Joint Jordanian-Omani Committee. We agreed on the need to continue these consultations and this coordination in the interest of the Arab nation.

The guest minister was seen off by the minister of state for foreign affairs, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, the Omani ambassador in Amman, and several senior officials.

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 9 Jan

JN1101103694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jan 94 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda arrived here Sunday [9 January] on a four-day visit as part of a Middle East tour aimed at exchanging views with the region's leaders on the peace process.

Mr. Fukuda, who travelled overland to Jordan from Israel through the West Bank across the King Husayn Bridge, is scheduled to be received by Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali on Monday.

A diplomatic source said Mr. Fukuda's visit was prompted by "rapid developments in the Middle East peace process."

Describing the visit as very important, the source said: "Japan is closely following up all events in the peace process and likes to have a regular exchange of views of all parties involved in the peace negotiations."

Mr. Fukuda, who leaves Jordan on Jan. 13, already met with Israeli officials in occupied Jerusalem, where he began his visit.

He will also visit Syria and Egypt.

The Japanese minister, who is paying his first visit to the Middle East after assuming office, is closely involved in his country's role in the multilateral phase of the peace process.

Japan chairs the multilateral working group on the environment and is an active member of the working group on water.

Mr. Fukuda's visit to the region follows a recent meeting in Tokyo of the steering committee of the multilateral groups.

The Japanese minister will also be discussing Jordanian-Japanese relations and follow up on the recent visit to Japan by Prime Minister al-Majali.

During the visit, Japanese leaders, including Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, voiced appreciation of Jordan's active participation in the peace process and reaffirmed their government's commitment to helping the Kingdom address its economic concerns.

Also expected to be reviewed during Mr. Fukuda's visit is an $80 million Japanese loan to help develop Jordan's energy sector.

The loan, which will match a similar loan from the World Bank that Jordan has already received, could be merged into a $150 million soft-credit for Jordan under consideration by the Tokyo government. The credit will finance the expansion of the al-Aqabah Thermal Power Plant.

Japan, which holds around $900 million of Jordan's foreign debts of $6.88 million, has promised to help Jordan alleviate its external debt burden through rescheduling arrangements.

In principle, Japan opposes debt write-off and advocates "help for those who help themselves." Japanese officials have expressed appreciation of the measures adopted by Jordan and say that such policies are behind the continued Japanese interest in extending aid to the Kingdom.

Jordan is expected to receive between $30 million and $40 million in Japanese aid during 1994, officials said shortly after Dr. al-Majali's visit to Japan last month.

Japan, which grew from the ashes of its economy after the war to become one of the top international aid donors, insists that aid recipients depend on themselves to develop their economies and repay foreign debts in the long term rather than seeking debt relief in the form of write-off.

The bulk of Jordan's dues to Japan (up to $800 million) is in the form of soft loans with one per cent annual interest and repayable in 30 years. The loans were mostly extended shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and aimed at helping Jordan absorb its economic losses from the crisis sparked by the invasion.

Jordan does not qualify for outright Japanese grants since Tokyo continues to follow an international convention which allows assistance to be given to countries with less than $800 per capita income. Jordan's per capita income was $1.020 in 1992.

Germany Seeks Libyan Suspect in Lebanon

NC1101094494 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 5 Jan 94 p 4

[Text] A German Judiciary spokesman has stated that a Libyan diplomat being held in Lebanon is believed to be one of the main perpetrators of an attack on Americans in Berlin in 1986. He demanded that the suspect be handed over to the German authorities.

A German court issued a warrant for the arrest of suspect Yusuf S. [not further identified] in 1990 for participating in the attack. The spokesman added that the German court also accuses him of planning the attack.

On 5 April 1986, a bomb blast at a nightclub frequented by U.S. military personnel in Berlin killed three people and wounded 230 others. The United States accused Libya of being behind the attack and retaliated by bombing Tripoli 10 days later.

Lebanese judiciary sources said the man being detained in Lebanon, who is of Palestinian origin, worked in the Jamahiriyah office in East Berlin. The spokesman added that the man was arrested in Lebanon in 1992 and has been in custody since. The spokesman could not say whether he was arrested for the charges against him or for other reasons.

The spokesman added: "Since then, we have been trying to get him handed over to Germany to try him." He added: "The German Embassy received his file in August 1993."

The German authorities were informed of the arrest of Yusuf S. in Lebanon at the end of 1992 but the information was not revealed so as to keep the investigation secret.

Another Palestinian, 'Imad Mahmud (37), has been held in Berlin since November 1992 on charges of planning and participating in the attack on the nightclub.

U.S. Congress Visit Provokes 'Controversy'

NC1101114294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Beirut, 11 Jan (MENA)—The lightning visit made by a delegation of U.S. Congress employees to western al-Biqa' in Lebanon as part of a mission to collect information on the fate of Israeli soldiers who went missing during the 1982 Israeli invasion has provoked broad controversy in Lebanese political quarters.

The U.S. delegation arrived in western al-Biqa' in south Lebanon across the border from Syria and carried out a four-hour field tour of several villages before returning to Syria.

Some Lebanese newspapers have criticized the visit. The Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR, mouthpiece of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, said the visit has created a diplomatic crisis-like atmosphere between Lebanon and the United States.

AL-DIYAR said diplomatic sources in the Lebanese Foreign Ministry have not concealed their astonishment at the way the visit took place without official quarters being informed, especially the Foreign Ministry, and without any meeting being sought with any Lebanese official to explain the delegation's mission.

U.S. Firms Said Encouraged To Buy Land in South

NC1101072894 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 31 Dec 93 p 9

[Text] Informed sources have stated that the U.S. Embassy is encouraging U.S. firms and businessmen to buy land in the "occupied strip" [Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon]. This information coincides with reports from Marj 'Uyun that a U.S. company has bought vast tracts of lands in Sarda and al-'Umrah near the al-Wazzani water spring.

Gunmen Attempt To Storm Yemeni Embassy

NC1001173794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY has received a statement from the Yemeni Embassy in Beirut saying that this morning three gunmen, two of them Yemeni, attempted to storm it. The identity of the third has not been determined. The security forces succeeded in foiling the attempt and arresting one of the gunmen and handed him over to the Lebanese security agencies for interrogation.

Cabinet Decides To Keep Agenda Secret

NC1101072594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] In its session yesterday, the Council of Ministers concluded discussing diplomatic appointments but did not announce the names publicly. This is in line with international norms, which stipulate informing the concerned countries first of the ambassadors appointed to them. All ministers refused to release any information on diplomatic appointments. They agreed that the Council of Ministers decided in its session yesterday to issue a decree that its decisions should be considered as secret. They clarified that the Council decided to add a paragraph to the fourth item of Decree Number 2552 issued on 1 August 1992 to make the text read:

While considering the clauses of Article 17 of the decree, the Council of Ministers' agenda will be considered a secret document. And the discussions and deliberations of the Council of Ministers will also be considered secret. They cannot be published or publicized.

The media referred to a turbulent start to the Council session. Minister Fattush said he believed that the request to make the discussions secret kills political life. When President al-Hirawi put the issue of adopting secrecy to a vote, the Council of Ministers approved it with a majority of 26. Three ministers objected: Sulayman Franjiyah, Nicholas Fattush, and Hasan 'Izz-al- Din.

Al-Asad Taking 'Complete Peace Document' to Summit

PM1101095094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jan 94 p2

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Syrian Official: Al-Asad Is Taking a Complete Arab Peace Paper to Geneva"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—As mid-January, the date for the U.S.-Syrian summit in Geneva, approaches, attention is firmly focused on what President Hafiz al-Asad is taking with him to Geneva in the form of a peace paper.

A high-ranking Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that what President al-Asad proposes at the Geneva summit meeting will be the most important factor for the establishment of full peace in the region and that U.S. President Bill Clinton would not have requested the meeting with President al-Asad had he not been strongly convinced that the Syrian demands representing all Arab rights are just and that the forthcoming peace will not be a fragile peace but a genuine, firm, and strong peace that will provide security and prosperity for the region.

The Syrian official said that President al-Asad will carry with him a complete peace document not about liberation of the Golan and Syrian-Israeli peace but about liberation of the occupied Arab territories and restoration of rights. He added that when President al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and in his contacts with President Clinton, he repeated the same position, namely that peace is an indivisible integral whole and cannot be achieved in some parts to the exclusion of other parts, and that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was the best proof exposing Israel's lack of interest in peace except on its own terms and in fulfillment of its own objectives.

The Syrian official said that Syria's aim is to preserve the unified Arab position of the frontline states in the face of future challenges because Israel continues to change the realities on the ground, showing no interest in progress that would lead to a just and lasting peace. The Syrian official added that the current Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese coordination is important in case the bilateral peace negotiations are resumed.

The senior Syrian official said that the Geneva summit is a major turning point in U.S.-Syrian relations and that the summit and its results will determine whether or not a just peace is possible. Perhaps the changes in U.S.-Syrian relations and the U.S. emphasis on Syria's central role in the peace process have made Israeli very resentful and aroused its concern because Rabin cannot walk away from the clear concept of peace to be proposed by Syria in Geneva, otherwise he would lose the justification for his continuation in power.

Syria, the Syrian official said, insists on complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and the al-Asad-Clinton summit will witness a Syrian position pressing for a revival of Resolution 425 on Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. That, he said, confirms the credibility of Syria's position on Lebanon and shows that Syria cannot possibly barter Lebanese territory, not even a single grain of Lebanese soil, in return for the restoration of its own territory whatever its size. By taking that stance, Syria will pave the way for Lebanese diplomacy in the next phase of peace negotiations.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has expressed full satisfaction with the results of his talks and consultations in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad at a meeting lasting three hours. Lebanese sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the consultation channels between Damascus and Beirut will remain open at the highest levels until the moment President Hafiz al-Asad leaves Damascus on his peace trip to Geneva to submit the Syrian Arab demands in strong terms.

The Lebanese sources quoted Prime Minister al-Hariri as saying that President al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support and backing for Lebanon in all fields to enable it to fully regain its health and liberate its territory from Israeli occupation, emphasizing that Syria will never abandon Lebanon and leave it alone in the arena. President al-Asad also expressed support for the Lebanese Government and continuation of the current political situation with no changes until the processes of peace, accord, and reconstruction are completed. He also stressed that Syria will never abandon its demand and insistence on the implementation of Resolution 425 and Israeli withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Clinton-al-Asad Summit Previewed

JN1101114294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Significance of International Attention," AL-THAWRAH says: Over the past 20 years, no summit between two or more world leaders has received as much attention as the upcoming summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. An objective analysis of the significance of this exceptional attention will show that the reason for this is that the Syrian-U.S. summit is an important, historic event on whose results depends the future of the entire Middle East.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The summit, as it is planned for, is a meeting for peace in the Middle East. Its major topic is how to end the deadlock in the peace process that resulted from Israel's intransigent policy.

AL-THAWRAH goes on: Certainly, President Clinton, who has already emphasized his eagerness to meet President al-Asad, will ascertain Syria's true desire to achieve peace in the region, its serious stance toward the peace process, and its unchanging concern to provide all the means possible to make this process succeed and achieve its major objective—a comprehensive solution based on a just, full peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The purpose of the al-Asad-Clinton summit is to rectify the course of the peace process and give it a new momentum to ensure that it will make progress.

Under the headline "The Geneva Summit," TISHRIN says: Rarely have we seen political meetings that received a broad political and media attention that equals the attention focused now on the expected summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton.

Since the announcement of the meeting, politicians and newsmen have been expressing their views and the world media organs—in their various political shades and professional levels—have been full of articles and commentaries about this major event.

TISHRIN says this attention has not come out of a vacuum. It is truly a natural outcome of the weight of the two presidents and reflects, at the same time, the hopes pinned by international quarters regarding the possibility of advancing the peace process in this region, which occupies the heart of the world and represents a mainstay of the life cycle in it.

TISHRIN adds: The international community, which is seeking peace and stability in the Middle East, has found out after many long experiences that this goal is impossible to achieve away from Syria and its views. No settlement can survive unless it is just and comprehensive, ends the causes of injustice and aggression, and restores rights to their legitimate owners. President Hafiz al-Asad is the person who proposed this theory and who has borne the burden of convincing the world of it. He has succeeded, and thus provided the objective means for the Madrid conference and opened the door for the possibility of achieving real peace in the region.

TISHRIN also highlights the media capabilities mobilized by Zionism to disturb the atmosphere of the upcoming summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. The paper points out that Zionism spared Syria no false accusations and also practiced all kinds of blackmail and intimidation against the U.S. Administration.

TISHRIN concludes: We hope that the summit will succeed and achieve its objectives and fulfill the great hopes pinned on it by reviving the march of a comprehensive settlement and achieving a just and lasting peace in the region that would end occupation and restore usurped Arab rights. Syria has made, and will continue to make, positive contributions toward this end.

Commenting on the importance of supporting Syria's stands, AL-BA'TH says: The Damascus Declaration foreign ministers were very clear when they asserted that a unified Arab position is what enables the nation to restore all of its rights in accordance with UN resolutions.

The paper notes that the meetings of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers over the past two days have paid special attention to the importance of the upcoming summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton under the current circumstances.

The paper says that the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers did not forget to stress Syria's important, vital role in ensuring the success of the peace process. They affirmed their countries' support for President Hafiz al-Asad, who is maneuvering the ship while demonstrating rare courage and wisdom.

AL-BA'TH concludes: It is very important for Syria to go to the Geneva summit while standing on firm ground and having the support of all its Arab brothers in order to achieve a just, comprehensive peace that restores Arab rights in full, keeps harm out of their way, and thus provides them with strength and impregnability.

Paper: 'New Opportunity' in Damascus Meeting

JN1001120694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Damascus Meeting...Toward Further Coordination," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Damascus meeting, which comes a few days before the expected summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, will provide a new opportunity for Arab coordination and consultation concerning the peace process and its developments, and give the Arab situation additional strength, especially since leader al-Asad will leave for Geneva as a representative of the Arab nation which seeks to restore its full cultural role in this world. The Arab nation stood fast and struggled in defense of its honorable, free existence, and refused, proudly and loftily, to capitulate to its enemies, through wise stands leader al-Asad has embodied in sound, unmistakable decisions.

AL-BA'TH notes: The topics the Damascus Declaration member states' foreign ministers will discuss are comprehensive and versatile and in the interest of pan-Arab issues that must not be relinquished.

AL-BA'TH adds: At the time of international changes and the economic blocs it has produced and whose objective is to control world economy, the Arabs have no choice but to unify ranks in order to pave the way for establishing the most important bloc, taking into consideration the Arab world's location and resources.

AL-BA'TH says: Our call for establishing a bloc is not based on hostility to or confrontation with anyone, but on the principle of defending our livelihood and providing the best living conditions for a nation that, throughout its history, has been the nation of generosity and kindness.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Frankly speaking, we call for further coordination, consultation, and unity. This is because joint Arab action contains abundant benefits for the masses of our nation which, everyday, hear about new world blocs, while it can do nothing. Based on this,

the Damascus meeting is of special importance, particularly, considering the positive results it will produce, and which will be in the interest of all Arabs.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the meetings of the Damascus Declaration member states' foreign ministers. It says: It is not a coincidence that the Damascus Declaration member states' foreign ministers meet to discuss ways to implement the declaration, taking into consideration that Syria is the country of all Arabs, the vanguard of pan-Arab solidarity, and the supporter of everyone who has been exposed to a spiteful aggression. The Kuwaiti brothers have realized Syria's concern about adhering to right and its readiness to confront falsehood.

TISHRIN adds: The Damascus Declaration should have been implemented long ago, especially since it lays the foundations for an entrenched and genuine Arab solidarity based on a host of pan-Arab principles. All Arabs are aware of the fact that the absence of Arab solidarity and some sides' deviation from the bases of this solidarity have led the region to two catastrophes: The first was the Iraq-Iran war which exhausted the resources of Iraq, Iran, and the region's states. The second was the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait which led to more serious results, not only the exhausted resources and capabilities, but also concerning the West's attempts to reimpose its hegemony over the region and to control oil prices.

TISHRIN says: In light of this tragic situation, there should have been a real solidarity that put things on their right course, entrenches the principles of pan-Arab action, fraternal relations, and genuine traditions, and confronts all those who tamper with the nation's fate and give predominance to their parochial interests and crazy whims over the Arabs' higher interests. However, the declaration remained only ink on paper, and the economy and foreign ministers held meetings which produced nothing although none of the signatories rejected or renounced the declaration. The Gulf states affirmed their adherence to the declaration, and Syria and Egypt expressed their readiness to fulfill their obligations and to give anything required of them.

TISHRIN clarifies: Arab security is an indivisible whole, and Gulf security is part of Arab security. No one can guarantee Arab security other than the Arabs themselves.

TISHRIN adds: In all their countries, the Arabs are looking forward to implementing the Damascus Declaration and to adopting Arab solidarity as a tangible and genuine principle. Things are changing rapidly and the entire Arab region has new obligations to fulfill. The current Arab fragmentation weakens the Arab cause. In fact, some have deviated from solidarity and concluded a deal with Israel, which harmed the Palestinian people and the region.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It has been said that the Arabs' strength lies in their unity and solidarity. Only through unity and solidarity can territories and holy places be restored. Syria has called and is calling on the Arabs to rise up to the level of pan-Arab responsibility. All Arabs can win through their solidarity, and lose through their fragmentation.

Afghanistan

Iranian Envoy Delivers Message to Hekmatyar

LD1001191794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] A special envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran met Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar at noon today and delivered a written message from our country's foreign minister. A cease-fire in Afghanistan was also discussed at the meeting.

Hezb-e Eslami Urges 'Neutral' Government

LD1101115694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Rival factions in Kabul brought each other's positions in the Afghan capital and its suburbs under air attacks yesterday afternoon, Iranian radio and television correspondents reported from the Afghan capital. In these attacks, aircraft of the Defense Ministry bombed forces of General Dostam and Hekmatyar on Bala-Hesar and Tappeh Maranjan in the eastern part of Kabul.

Meanwhile, General Dostam's forces attacked Bagram Airport and several political and government centers in the capital. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami has offered new proposals to President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government to put an end to the crisis. The details will be explained by our colleague from Kabul.

[Correspondent] The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan has announced the latest proposals put forward by the opposition to the government of Borhanoddin Rabbani in an effort to bring the civil strife to a peaceful end. According to news sources inside the Hezb-e Eslami, Homayun Jalil, deputy leader of the Hezb has proposed the simultaneous resignation of Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar from their respective positions of president and prime minister. He also said that to achieve a complete cessation of all hostilities, the restoration of lasting peace, and the establishment of a neutral government in Afghanistan, the leadership of Hezb-e Eslami is ready to hold direct negotiations with Borhanoddin Rabbani and [former Defense Minister] Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

At the same time he stated that the opposition to Rabbani's government would welcome the establishment of a neutral government in Afghanistan headed by [former president] Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. [passage omitted]

India

Rao Comments on 'Polarization' of Parties

BK0801033294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0247 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad yesterday evening, Narasimha Rao said a polarization of political parties is taking place on the basis of secular and nonsecular policies in the country. He said that is a reason why many parties are being attracted to the Congress-I.

Regarding India-Pakistan ties, the prime minister reiterated that India is persuading Pakistan to give up its support to terrorists. Pakistan is not responding so far, but we will continue with our efforts.

Replying to a question, Mr. Rao said that his government is committed to build a temple and the mosque at Ayodhya.

Says 'Secular Foundation' Secure

BK0901111494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] The prime minister said the country is well on its way to steady economic progress. Addressing a meeting at Trichur in Kerala, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the country's secular foundation faced the gravest challenges from communal forces in recent times but they have come under effective control now. He called for a massive public cooperation to consolidate the achievement. Mr. Rao reiterated that a polarization has started in Indian politics with the secular forces on one side and the communal and casteist elements on the other. Referring to Punjab, the prime minister said terrorism has come to an end finally with the cooperation of the people. On Kashmir, he said the center is hopeful of restarting the democratic process very soon.

Earlier, inaugurating the valedictory function of the platinum jubilee celebration of the local St. Thomas College, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the nation is well set to attain secular democracy despite impediments. He said secularism is the lifeblood of the nation.

Rao Urges Ties With Beijing To Ensure Peace

BK1001163694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The prime minister says that in the changed international situation, India and China have a bigger role to play to ensure peace and stability. Speaking to a delegation of the Chinese Communist Party which called on him in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed satisfaction over the steady growth of bilateral relations. The prime minister also extended an invitation to the Chinese president to visit later this year. The delegation is led by Mr. Wen Jiabao, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. According to the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar, the delegation called for greater cooperation between India and China in agriculture, science and technology, rural development, industry and culture. It also emphasized the need for more interaction between the Congress-I and the Chinese Communist Party. The delegation earlier called on the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan. The minister reiterated the government's commitment to maintain

friendly relations with China and peace and tranquillity along the border. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Prime Minister's Trip to PRC Viewed

BK1101093894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Jan 94 p 1

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 1—China has reportedly given Pakistan a firm assurance about continuity of arms supplies in future, even though Premier Benazir Bhutto failed to persuade its leadership to finalise a Sino-Pak military pact aimed primarily against India.

As a follow-up of the credit agreement signed between the two countries recently to finance arms purchases, Chinese and Pakistani defence officials will conduct negotiations on the items Islamabad is looking for and the delivery schedules, from Beijing. The two countries have a longstanding defence relationship, including in the nuclear field, and China has emerged as Pakistan's major arms supplier.

After having launched a low intensity war against India through sponsorship of terrorism, Pakistan has been trying its utmost to involve China in a formal security relationship which could deter India from attacking Pakistan, even if the level of interference in its internal affairs became extremely grave and unbearable.

The subject was broached by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also with Chinese Premier Li Peng several times during his Beijing visits, as also Mr. Peng's Islamabad journey in 1989. But China, which has accorded top priority to establishing good neighbourly relations with the countries bordering on it, has refused to get involved in any security arrangement.

When Ms. Benazir Bhutto raised the issue with Mr. Peng in Beijing early this week, she was reportedly told that, at a time when the international situation was marked by turbulence, Asia-Pacific was the only region achieving rapid economic growth and perceptible political stability. China's moves to establish closer political, economic and cultural ties with these countries and, principally its neighbours, had helped promote regional stability and development.

At the same time, with the world witnessing turmoil in several spots—Europe, Middle East, Africa—and the growing trend towards defusion of tensions, any military pacts were becoming irrelevant. Even NATO had lost its focus. The Chinese leadership, according to diplomatic sources, laid stress on resolving the present, as well as, future crises among countries through peaceful negotiations without involving third parties, which would only complicate matters further.

Under an agreement on military cooperation signed during the Premiership of Mr. Z.A. Bhutto, Pakistan had assumed that the same would operate as a defence pact and China would automatically intervene on Pakistan's side whenever it chose to commit hostilities against India. But the Chinese have put no such interpretation on, nor acknowledged any defence obligations, under the agreement as per which considerable quantities of military equipment were supplied to Pakistan on "friendship prices". Ms. Benazir Bhutto did not succeed in persuading the Chinese to commit themselves to a military pact where Mr. Nawaz Sharif had failed many times.

Though China accords top priority to its relations with Pakistan, it is in no mood to do anything which would create apprehensions amongst its neighbours about its "expansionist" or peace-keeping role in the Asian region. Ms. Bhutto was also assured that China's friendship with Pakistan would not be affected by normalisation of relations with India with which it had signed an agreement recently on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border.

The Chinese treat the relations with Islamabad as abiding, developed as these were in the military field first and, later, extended to the economic and technological (including nuclear) spheres. China's unwillingness to play the U.S. game of trying to destabilise the situation in the Asian sub-continent by backing one of the parties to the Kashmir dispute has been clearly expressed. The Chinese leaders were also lukewarm in responding to Ms. Bhutto's allegations of repression and violation of human rights in Kashmir because Beijing is accused precisely of the same in Tibet and also parts of China.

The Chinese leadership has thus adopted a correct attitude keeping in view Indian sensibilities, though the credits for arms supplies it has offered to Islamabad is causing some anxiety in New Delhi because Pakistan has already acquired huge quantities of weapons and has an on-going programme of cooperation in defence industries with Beijing. Sino-Pakistani missile cooperation started as far back as 1987-88 initially focusing on the sale of Chinese built M-9 ballistic missiles. Chinese assistance in developing Pakistan's 400 km range HATF-2 surface-to-surface missile was confirmed in 1989, although information on the extent of assistance was not fully available.

The Chinese transfer of about 40 M-11 missiles capable of carrying 1100 kg warhead up to a distance of 300 miles has now been confirmed, though it is said that it has a shorter range of 290 km with 800 kg payload. The M-11 is a fully mobile, single-stage solid propellant missile, and can be loaded and readied for firing in about 45 minutes. According to unconfirmed reports, China has on-hand contracts to sell missile and other related technology to the tune of nearly one billion U.S. dollars to Pakistan, Iran, Syria and other countries in West Asia.

The U.S. Administration has alleged that China is shipping components, technology and materials that directly contribute to a covert indigenous missile-production programme in Pakistan to justify its decision to impose sanctions on China and Pakistan under MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime].

Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to North Korea also assumes significance from the military angle, because Pyongyang

had also been a major recipient of Chinese missiles and components as well as technical assistance. North Korea has been assisted by China in designing rocket engines and provided metallurgy and air-frame expertise. North Korea is now trying to develop new Nodong-I ballistic missile with range of 1000 km. Obviously, Pakistan may be trying to import missile components and related technology besides other equipment from North Korea which in turn is getting them from China.

China insists that it has been prudent in exporting arms and military technology, and says that export of weapons must help countries improve their defence capabilities. These should not harm regional peace, security and stability and the arms sales must not be used to interfere in the internal affairs of others. However, going by Pakistan's conduct since 1988 when it began sponsoring cross-border terrorism against India, none of the conditions stipulated by China on arms transfer have been observed.

Government Totals 1993 Foreign Investment

BK0901165494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign direct investment has crossed 1600 crore rupees last year. An official release in New Delhi says this reflects the increasing response to the new industrial policy and the economic reforms. The investment inflows were a meagre 350 crores rupees during 1991. The year end review of the industrial scene shows that the infrastructure sector has achieved a near six percent growth rate. The release says the government has approved 37 projects proposed under the centrally sponsored scheme of growth centers.

Iran

Khamene'i Speaks on Prophet's Anniversary

LD1001143594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at ceremony in Tehran marking the anniversary of the Prophet's divine appointment—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I also congratulate all the Islamic Umma across the world, the honorable nation of Iran, you the honorable audience, and the hard working and active officials of the country on this day. [passage omitted]

Our concern today is like a message, like a mission. We are presenting a new message to the world. That is the issue. The message will, of course, affect our own lives and our own country first, but it also represents a new way for the world. The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran must not forget this.

This is a system that has come into existence to reveal the divine mission to humanity; it has not come into existence to learn things from misguided societies, governments, and systems. It may be the case that we are very bad, that we may have many shortcomings, that we may be very weak for carrying this message. Nevertheless, that is the message. It is a message of the salvation of humanity. You cannot argue or haggle over this message. We have no right to diminish the message in any way because something in it may not be quite to our taste. No!

This is a message for humanity and humanity needs it. We are the friends of humanity. We are not its enemies. We are the friends of science, progress, improvement, and comfort for all the nations of the world. We know why they are suffering. They need spirituality. That spirituality is here.

Of course, spirituality cannot be imposed. If it is imposed, it loses its effect. We are offering it. There are two points we have to bear in mind here. One is for you and I—that is, every single person who carries a responsibility in this system. We must pay heed to it. It is this: We are not just managers and rulers; we must see ourselves as presenters of a new idea in today's world. We must act on that basis. We must follow this policy. We must conform to Islam in keeping with this fact. That is one point. We must maintain the purity and independence of this idea and way of thinking.

Another point has to do with the people of the world. Radios do their utmost to present the Islamic Republic of Iran as an aggressor, always interfering, trying to rout all the regimes of the world. No, gentlemen! It is not like that. Anyone can live anyway they like, anywhere in the world. We are simply offering what humanity needs today. The Lord of the Faithful said: The wandering doctor makes his medicines to meet the most divine exactions. [preceeding sentence spoken in Arabic] We carry in our rucksacks the cures to all of humanity's ills. Whoever does not want anything from our rucksack is free not to take it. We are not trying to pick a quarrel with anyone. [passage omitted]

There is propaganda against us, saying: Iran has problems with every country, it has difficulties to sort out with every one. No! This is not true! Iran has problems only with the security organizations of the world's arrogant states, that is, the most sinister organizations of those states. The same organizations prepare radio propaganda programs against us. Who do you think is behind the propaganda of the foreign radio stations? They sit and prepare a plan. The Islamic Iran has problems with these organizations only and with no one else. We do not have any problems with governments and nations, except a few of them. We have no reason for having problems.

We are a country and a nation with a message. We are a population with some strength. We have a past and achievements to be proud of, proud of the past and present achievements. Such a personality as the Imam [Khomeyni] was among us. As far as we know, the world

has never seen such a personality, either in the contemporary world or in the recent past. We have great youths, who demonstrated their capabilities. We have proud fathers, mothers, families, and scientists. We do not need anything. We do not need anybody. Of course we are not afraid of anyone either. No one whatsoever.

Why should we provoke such and such country to conquer such and such a place, to demolish such and such a building, to create a disturbance in such and such an area, or to blow up such and such a place? Such actions are undertaken by the antihuman apparatus of states which face certain problems. Such actions do not come from us. Our message is the message of Islam.

One of the factors which helps the spread of Islam is kindness. Wherever kindness is applied, it decorates actions. Kindness means being flexible and not soft. It does not mean being soft like a pile of permeable earth. It means not being inflexible, intransigent, and abrasive. [passage omitted] We are endowed with this virtue and so is Islam and the Koran. This should be the lesson of the Koran and the Prophet's mission to us.

O my dear brothers and sisters present at this gathering and all over the country, the lesson of the Koran is that we are the messengers of a new word and we must maintain the respect of this new word. [passage omitted]

President Marks Anniversary

LD1001143294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a ceremony in Tehran marking the anniversary of the Prophet's divine appointment—recorded]

[Excerpts] May this auspicious and glorified day be a blessing for our Hezbollah community. On behalf of those present, I congratulate the honorable and esteemed leader of revolution. This is a great day for all Muslims and for our nation. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that Islamic Iran is at the head of a movement today. The first word was spoken by our late imam, and today your excellency is repeating the message, guiding and supervising our people and humanity. We know that as much as this path and way is important for us, it is heavy and bitter for the enemies of Islam. Unable to wage physical war they are frantically waging a psychological war against the Islamic revolution. They miss no opportunity and no occasion to somehow weaken this revolution, the Koran, and the prophet's mission in the world. But, thank God, they usually fail and they are now losing the last game.

In Your Excellency's frank and very clear address to the people of Qom yesterday, you determined a suitable path, a fresh move in the new battle scene, by warning pencil-pushers, talkers, and the practical and active forces. Prior to this... [pauses] In the second development plan we have policies which you sketched out and which officially entered the plan for the first time in the history of the revolution. Although in the first plan too we enjoyed the imam's frank messages and views, this time we, the government, had an organized and codified guideline on which to plan policies. Today it is up to the Majles to carefully review the policies which are the rights of the leader, according to the constitution and to religious law. And so we could have policies with peace of mind in the next few years.

I think with the very frank language which you used yesterday, our tribunes, pens, and tongues will not allow our enemies in this psychological war to weaken the spirit of our ummah, the Koran, and Islam, or to achieve something by motivating and inspiring the dejected enemies of Islam. Our nation has been and shall continue to be vigilant and to guard the messages and orders of the guardianship of the juriconsult. [passage omitted]

President Seeks Khamene'i Approval for Purge

PM1101101094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jan 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Rafsanjani Seeks Khamene'i's Approval for Major Public Sector Purge Operation"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is trying to get the approval of Supreme Leader 'Ali Khamene'i for "a major purge operation" to put an end to corruption in the public sector institutions. Sources close to Rafsanjani yesterday revealed that the president was "deeply resentful" of the repeated discovery of corruption cases in all government ministries and establishments.

A total of 106 cases of corruption were uncovered in the past six months including sums exceeding $1.5 billion in 13 government departments, nine state banks, two government-owned insurance companies, and seven universities and research centers. The corruption cases even reached the establishments created by the mullas supposedly for charity. Two such establishments have been accused of involvement in the black market, smuggling, and extortion of funds from independent businessmen.

The discovery of these cases has resulted in the arrest of 80 people including 22 senior banking officials. In the case of one bank, almost all its senior officials have been jailed.

In a speech at Tehran University yesterday, Rafsanjani admitted that his government is facing "serious difficulties" because of the drop in oil revenues. He said his government intends to cut expenditures considerably and launch a campaign against extravagance and corruption.

According to a source close to Rafsanjani, the Iranian president will not be able to carry out the required "purge" operation because of the restrictions on his powers under the Constitution.

Khamene'i, whose powers are unlimited under the Constitution, is the only person who can authorize Rafsanjani to launch such a campaign which could "touch some important figures including prominent mullas."

Larijani Leads Delegation to Germany

NC1001124394 Paris AFP in English 1122 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 10 (AFP)—A high-level Iranian delegation left here Monday [10 January] for Germany amid shaky relations between the two countries, diplomats in Tehran said.

The delegation, headed by National Security Council secretary Mohammad Javad Larijani, is to discuss ways to boost cooperation with Germany, Iran's main economic partner.

Larijani, who is also deputy-head of the parliament's foreign affairs subcommittee, said earlier that the delegation would seek to "improve understanding and friendship" between the two countries.

Last October, an Iranian and four Lebanese went on trial in Berlin for the murder of four Kurdish opposition leaders, allegedly ordered by the Tehran authorities.

The German federal prosecutor's office has openly accused the Iranian secret service of masterminding the killings. Iran has denied all involvement.

Meanwhile, Iran's supreme court has upheld a death sentence against a German technician, Helmut Szimkus, jailed four years ago on charges of spying for Iraq.

Germany has asked Iran to spare the life of Zsimkus, 59.

On Thursday the Iranian judiciary suggested that the German could be pardoned by Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, who issued a decree on Sunday granting either an amnesty to 2,389 prisoners or a reduction in their sentences.

The German embassy in Tehran contacted by AFP was unable to say whether Szimkus was among those amnestied.

Velayati Departs for Ireland

NC1101070494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left for Dublin this morning at the invitation of his Irish counterpart. The Central News Unit reports that during the visit, Velayati will attend the second session of the joint commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. The foreign minister will meet high-ranking Irish officials and discuss issues of mutual interest as well as ways to expand bilateral relations.

'Cordial Relations' With Saudi Arabia Urged

LD1101133394 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial here Tuesday [11 January] called for cordial relations between Tehran and Riyadh to abort efforts by small groups in both countries to create tension and crisis between them. However, the daily noted that these groups are not in decisive positions either in Tehran or Riyadh which have always played key roles in OPEC since the creation of this highly significant world economic organization.

"In the final analysis what counts is the decisions reached at the level of the leaders of the two countries regarding the creation of cordial relationships," the daily added.

The daily added that on the final days of 1993 oil prices sank to the lowest level in the past five years and the average price for OPEC oil basket stood at about dollars 12.67 making serious difficulties for most of the petroleum exporting countries.

In fact OPEC is the only international organization which sets price on a single raw material that is produced mainly by a number of the third world countries, the daily said. It added that the industrially developed countries which had been accustomed for too long to the arrogant assumption that it was their natural right to determine prices both for the raw material they imported from the third world as well as the industrial commodities they exported to those countries, are trying to weaken OPEC And undermine its very foundations.

The countries in the region, Iran and Saudi Arabia in particular, realized the problems of the region, said the paper, adding that its security needs will have to be settled and resolved through peaceful cooperation among themselves. Once the regional countries have learned to settle the basic issues of the regional security through peaceful strategies, more expanded cooperation such as preserving their natural right to set the price of oil will automatically follow, it concluded.

Seminar on Central Asia, Caucasus Planned

NC1001161394 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 1 Jan 94 p 2

[Text] An international seminar to survey the trend of development in Central Asia and the Caucasus will be held in Tehran from 17-19 January with the participation of more than 50 experts and specialists from various countries.

During the seminar, which is being hosted by the Office of Political Studies in our country's Foreign Ministry, researchers from Central Asia and the Caucasus, Russia, Britain, the PRC, Germany, France, the United States, Afghanistan, Cyprus, and Lebanon will present their papers, as well as Iranian experts.

Speaking on this subject, the deputy minister for training and research in the Foreign Ministry, Maleki, told correspondents: Besides the general discussions on the development of Central Asian countries and the Caucasus, experts will debate the papers presented at the seminar within the framework of three specialized committees. He said the following topics would be included: crises and bottlenecks in the path of development, the nature of power and those who wield it, the influence of

culture on development, patterns for development and models of economic growth, and regional cooperation and development.

Conference on 'Cultural Assault' Concludes Work

LD1101084194 Tehran IRNA in English 0809 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The conference on nature and magnitudes of cultural assault concluded its work Monday [10 January] after discussing the cultural, media, political, social and economic aspects of the issue. Speaking at the closing session, secretary of the conference Mohammad Hoseyn Panahi said that the conference was aimed at reviewing cultural assault and its scientific definition.

To identify the loopholes through which the domestic culture would be affected by alien cultures was among other objectives discussed by the participants. He called for revision in cultural policies of the country reasoning that present regulations were vulnerable and defenceless against penetration of foreign standards into the society. Panahi referred to preservation of unity and genuineness of cultural system, along with acceptance of useful elements in foreign cultures, as the main factors which should be included in the country's cultural strategy.

Experts, university professors and government officials in charge of cultural affairs took part in the 3-day conference co-sponsored by research department of the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry and Social Sciences Faculty of Allameh Tabataba'i University.

HAMSHAHRI's 'Insincere' Policy Criticized

NC0901152794 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Jan 94 p 14

[Commentary by Mehdi Mirvahedi: "Political Line!"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Any logical person can tell with a mere glance at HAMSHAHRI that despite its allegations, its administrators have adopted an insincere policy and possibly think that the people are naive. After all, who does not know that HAMSHAHRI has come so that His Excellency the Mayor will stay?

In its commentary [on the first anniversary of the newspaper], HAMSHAHRI wrote: "We have sincerely tried, contrary to some existing newspapers, not to be the mouthpiece or spokesman for one specific line of political thought, to refrain from making our newspaper an instrument for "settling accounts" or "throwing rivals off the scene," and not to become involved in shallow press disputes."

There is no doubt of the fact that HAMSHAHRI can be listed among those who are "indifferent" to the world of politics. However, undoubtedly we cannot agree that HAMSHAHRI is nobody's mouthpiece. It is very clear that analyzing important and basic domestic and foreign issues is not an easy task, and having political thought is a newspaper's strength and not a weakness, as our dear colleagues at HAMSHAHRI believe. But the fact that they have not chosen to enter this field is probably because they are unable to and not because they do not want to. [passage omitted]

Finally, despite the remarks by HAMSHAHRI's proprietor that "our initiatives and innovations and our use of new techniques is good for competition" we should say that this competition with the other newspapers is not being carried out in a healthy atmosphere. HAMSHAHRI has acquired the new techniques by making use of the municipality's general budget, which is the money that the municipality gets from the people. And selling a newspaper at one-tenth of the price of other newspapers is press dumping [preceding word in English] and not healthy competition!

New Unit Opened at Arak Refinery

LD1101094594 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Arak, Central Prov. Jan. 11, IRNA—Hydrocracking unit of Arak Refinery with the daily production capacity of four million liters of various types of oil products was put on stream here Tuesday [11 January]. Head of the refinery Reza Kasa'i-Zadeh told IRNA here that the unit would provide the market with some three million liters of kerosene and gas oil adding that there would be no need in future to import such products.

The light and heavy oils produced by the unit would fully meet needs of Arak petrochemical complex, added the official. The refinery is situated in an area 22 kms southwest Arak and is completed by Iranian experts.

Pakistan

Leghari, Bhutto Urge Permanent Afghan Truce

BK1101164694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto have appealed to the Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani; the prime minister, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar; and all other politi.al parties in Afghanistan to cease hostilities and observe a permanent cease-fire effective from 0600 on Friday [14 January] morning. The appeal has been made by the Pakistani leaders being encouraged by positive response to Pakistan's earlier request for a temporary cease-fire and keeping in view the brotherly ties existing between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is also based on a (?view) to restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan. All Afghan parties have further been urged not to resume hostilities until the Islamic Conference Organization and friendly countries have had a full opportunity to effect conciliation and to resolve their differences.

Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Ms. Benazir Bhutto have noted with alarm the situation in Afghanistan over the last 10 days and the resort to force by

contending parties which have resulted in the tragic loss of life and large-scale destruction of property. In order to alleviate the sufferings of Afghan brothers and sisters affected by the recent hostilities, Pakistan has extended immediate humanitarian aid containing medicines and fully equipped field hospitals. These will be sent to Afghanistan as soon as the cease-fire is agreed. Pakistan is already actively participating in relief facilities for displaced Afghans who have left Kabul.

UNSC President Concerned About Kashmir

BK0801033094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] The UN Security Council president, Kovanda Karel of the Czech Republic, has expressed serious concern about the human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir. He expressed this concern at a meeting at the UN with Attorney Sultan Mahmud, president of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League. According to APP, Karel supported an investigation at the international level in the human rights situation in the occupied Kashmir. Attorney Sultan Mahmud also met with the UN undersecretary general, Mr. Marrack Goulding. He demanded that the United Nations send a delegation of the human rights commission to the occupied Kashmir to investigate the very grave situation there. The Kashmiri leader also met with many other members of the Security Council and presented a memorandum to them explaining the current situation in the occupied Kashmir.

Indian Parliamentarians Attend Reception

BK0801033394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jan 94

[Text] Fasi Iqbal, chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, hosted a reception in honor of the visiting Indian members of parliament. Speaking on the occasion, he said such visits contribute toward promoting bilateral relations and could pave the way for the resolution of the outstanding matters. Indian members of Parliament, Mahinder Prasad and Kishore Singh said that they are impressed with the sentiments of sincerity and goodwill expressed by the Pakistani senators.

Minister Accuses RAW of Training Activists

BK0701125394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Dec 94 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Interior Minister Maj. Gen. (Retd) Nasirullah Babar said Thursday that activists of Al-Zulfiqar Organisation (AZO) did get terrorist training from the Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

"Training camps were set up in Rajasthan and other areas of India, where many AZO activists were brainwashed and thus, they became RAW agents," he said during on informal chat with newsmen at a lunch hosted by the Senate chairman, Wasim Sajjad.

The minister said that RAW agents were active in Sindh. "I have read a report which showed that Jam Sadiq was a RAW agent."

"The mere fact that a political worker was lashed or underwent imprisonment is not a certificate for patriotism," the minister said when his comments were sought on the credentials of Suraish Kumar, a supporter of Mir Murtaza Bhutto, who was dubbed as a RAW agent by the government the other day, and who was known as a "[word indistinct] of Bhutto" in Sindh.

He told a questioner that Murtaza Bhutto was not involved in the 1961 hijacking of the PIA passenger plane and this was mentioned in a report prepared by the Army during the martial law period. "His name was then put in "Khana [list] number two (meant for suspects) in the FIR [first information report]."

"Let the time come," was his reply when asked whether the government would arrest Begum Nusrat Bhutto in connection with Wednesday's incident in Larkana.

"We are looking into the matter," he said when asked how did the RAW agents enter into Al-Murtaza, Larkana. He said he would ask the Sindh government why it did not take the necessary measures before hand to stop their entry in the residence.

The minister said the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] would not split and described Begum Bhutto's statement in this regard as just a "hubble". He said Makhdoom Khaleequzzaman and Ihtramul Haq had left the PPP long time back.

He said that the Murtaza factor would have no impact on the PPP in the Punjab. "When there is a change of generation there is a change of leadership too, but nobody can be imposed on workers as their leader."

The interior minister said the Judicial probe into the Larkana incident was in progress. "It will establish who opened the firing first. It cannot be said at this stage whether the provincial government failed to handle the situation."

He said that he received the report of the incident at 11 a.m. on Wednesday from the Sindh government. "We were prepared to send reinforcement but the provincial administration did not ask for assistance."

To another question, the minister said it was the flawed policy of Ziaul Haq which led to the influx of foreigners in Pakistan. At that time, 8,000 visas were issued to the Indian nationals to visit Pakistan but, now, the figure has been restricted to 40 and the police verification has been made mandatory, he said.

Foreign Minister's Remarks on Kashmir Criticized

BK1001094394 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Jan 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Talk of Nuclear War?"]

[Text] The words attributed to Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali that nuclear war could engulf the whole of South Asia if the Kashmir dispute was not resolved, are hard to believe. To contemplate such an eventuality, howsoever remote it may be, cannot be accepted. Firstly, because Pakistan has so far been insisting that its nuclear programme is of a peaceful nature. And secondly, because such a statement coming from Pakistan's Foreign Minister will only give an excuse to India not to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India would project his statement abroad as a threat and start stockpiling nuclear arms openly. The reason why Sardar Assef made that statement, if at all, is not hard to find. His perception, as also the perception of most Pakistanis, is that India is not serious in solving the Kashmir problem. It wants to intensify its brutal suppression of the freedom movement till all those involved in it are killed or otherwise eliminated. By holding talks with Pakistan, it only wishes to impress those foreign powers which have been pressuring it to find a negotiated settlement with Pakistan. It also wants to buy time. An indication of that is the recent statement of the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, in which he said that India would soon solve the Kashmir problem in its favour. Provocative as this and other statements of the Indian leaders may be (such as that of the Defence Minister Dinesh Singh, who said that the Kashmiris have only one choice, that of joining India), our reaction ought to be of restraint.

After all, not all the peaceful means of tackling this problem have yet been exhausted. Pakistan's efforts to rouse international opinion against Indian obduracy have yet to begin. The effort to mobilise public sentiment abroad against the violation of human rights in Held Kashmir, which had to be abandoned earlier, has yet to be revived. Fortunately, the attitude of the UN Secretariat, which used to be of indifference only a few months back, has changed. Its rebuttal of the Indian Foreign Secretary's claim about the 'irrelevance' of the UN Resolutions has been quite firm and clear. We have to wait and see if the world will stand by and condone the genocide of the Kashmiris? We will also have to see if we, being driven to the wall, are left with no way out. Only then we should think of other solutions than of peace.

Frequent Visits by U.S. General Queried

BK0801100994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Jan 94 p 7

[Editorial: "A Proconsular Visit"]

[Text] General Joseph P. Hoar, commander of [as published] chief of the US central command, has by now become a frequent visitor in Pakistan who is treated with somewhat greater deference than what is shown for generals from elsewhere. He is here again on what may be his umpteenth visit, going through an almost unchanging itinerary. This includes not only a junket throughout the country inspecting the military installations but calling on the state functionaries including the President.

The frequency of his visits suggest this is no mere courtesy call but a routine function of his responsibilities as the C-in-C [Commander in Chief] of a command which covers the region Pakistan is in. No government has ever given any explanation for the regularity of the General's visits and it is needless to expect the present regime to do so. Military matters of this nature are still obscured by a sort of an information denial system and little is ever known of such issues till much later when comment becomes redundant.

However, in the present circumstances, there is need to quantify the American General's visit as it comes at a time when there has been no change in Washington's policy towards Islamabad. Although Pakistan just escaped by a hair's breadth from being put on the black list of the states accused of aiding terrorism, it is still in a grey area, a kind of a limbo, as far as relations with America are concerned. None of the stringent curbs imposed as a result of the Pressler amendment have been lifted, nor has the State Department relented from raising the bogey of nuclear weapons, supposedly stashed away in Pakistan. To all intents and purposes, this country remains out in the cold waiting with consummate patience to be returned to the good graces of the United States.

Against this background, General Hoar's visit arouses even greater curiosity that needs to be cleared away. As Pakistan is no longer the recipient of any kind of American military aid nor any of the security pacts are operative that once linked the two states, it is intriguing why should the General be here so often and under what sort of understanding the joint US-Pak military exercises are being held. These two queries must also be seen in the light of Islamabad's increasing concern over the apparent American leniency towards India on the nuclear issue and its hardline policy towards Pakistan. It makes no sense that Islamabad should remain involved in a bizarre love hate linkage with Washington, which neither holds any gilt-edged guarantee of better times ahead nor allows taking up other options.

This policy has been pursued by all the governments after the bonanza of American munificence resulting from the "Afghan jehad" gradually dried up. Even the Nawaz Sharif regime, which made a fetish of its self-proclaimed "independent" policy and doing away with the "crutches" of aid, never really got out of this Catch-22 situation. General Hoar was then just as much a regular visitor as now. In fact no government has ever thought of charting out a brave new policy or will do so, specially in the present unipolar world. It is quite likely the vague policy of waiting for America to issue us a certificate of fitness, after Islamabad has done its best to clear away the doubts, will continue.

Improved Performance by Bhutto Government Urged

BK1001112994 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 Jan 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Stop Feuding, Start Governing the Country"]

[Text] No apology needed to revert to the state of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. It is not at its best. Of course, it could be worse. That all is not well is becoming more and more pronouncedly clear. The Al Murtaza firing death of a student supporter of Mir Murtaza Bhutto; the dramatic arrest, release and arrest of PPP activist Suresh Kumar; the weird allegations of harbouring RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents against Begum Nusrat Bhutto; the hasty suspension of a whole platoon of police officers and men in Larkana; Premier Benazir Bhutto's prolonged stay in Larkana; her renewed emphasis on a rapprochement with the much maligned MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]; the swearing in of a bloated cabinet in Punjab; intermittent sparring between Punjab Chief Minister Wattoo and Senior Minister Hayat; the unexplained delay in finalising the government at the centre... One could go on and on with embarrassing items of omission and commission. In a word there is widespread scepticism about how confident a grip the Benazir Bhutto government has over the issues that need effective handling. What is undermining the PPP administration's image in public eye is the family feud which shows no sign of abating. The elder lady has not distinguished herself for either patience or propriety; the younger remains manifestly unsure. There is no doubt that she is trying her best to play it cool. So far, her best has not been good enough. The temperature is constantly rising. The Al Murtaza incident was exactly what the Prime Minister should have done without. No one except the PPP government in Sindh is to blame for it. There may or may not be a convincing case for the heavy hand falling on the Larkana police, but there is a compelling case against the Government of Sindh. From the very start, it went about its precautions to prevent untoward incidents in a very unwise manner. It virtually invited trouble and got it in unendurable abundance. This gigantic error of the Sindh Government has already cost the PPP leader so much of undeserved agony. And no end to it is in sight.

The damage done is profound and painful. Part of it may now be beyond repair. What Ms. Benazir is apparently trying is damage-limitation. How much she may be able to salvage is still not very clear. The professional Cassandras may be exaggerating the losses incurred by the PPP, or the cracks in party unity. However, there is little doubt that a hairline fracture is there. It is a challenge to the PPP leadership to heal it. Patience, forbearance and even forgiveness may be the right recipe. Begum Nusrat Bhutto has undoubtedly been unduly rasping with her tongue. Perhaps she cannot help it at this moment in her life. But the real damage caused to the PPP is by its own jialas [workers] hurling thoughtless and undignified accusations questioning the integrity and patriotism of Begum Nusrat Bhutto. It is difficult to imagine of anything more condemnable. It is not the politics of civilised people. Political differences are understandable, debasing of politics is not. Let us not pollute the already muddied waters.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would be less than wise if she failed to realise that there is need to lift politics out of the abyss into which it has fallen as a result of what should have been no more than a passing family misunderstanding sorted out pleasantly—and in private. There is still time and room to set things right. Start by clearing the question of "succession". The Pakistan People's Party is not Bhutto family property. It is the legacy which the people of Pakistan—no individual, however high or mighty—is entitled to inherit. This humbug about Mir Murtaza Bhutto or the Bhutto widow, is the sole proprietor of the PPP, must be buried under a million tons of earth, never to be resurrected. The election of Ms. Benazir Bhutto as Party Chairperson should be regularised according to PPP constitution. And that should be that. The Prime Minister should accord the highest priority to a settlement with MQM, without which it would be almost impossible to normalise Sindh. And it is about time the Prime Minister started governing the country in right earnest.

Minister Accuses Sharif of Refusing Offer

BK1101150094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] Talking to newsmen at the State Bank building cafeteria, Syed Iqbal Haider said the government's efforts to create an atmosphere of understanding with the opposition did not produce any result. The law minister said Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto invited the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, for talks on several occasions to evolve consensus on common points contained in their respective manifestos on vital national issues, including matters relating to national security, so that harm is not caused to national interests. But Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif refused. The president, he added, also invited PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz faction] leader in Islamabad and then in Lahore for creating understanding in the political field, but Mr. Nawaz Sharif again refused. The law minister renewed the government's offer of a dialogue on major national issues to Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

Military Arrests Murtaza Bhutto Committee Member

BK0901123094 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Jan 8—Suresh Kumar, an active worker of the Murtaza Bhutto Committee, who had escaped from the custody of Larkana Police Thursday, was arrested by the army Saturday morning.

Official sources claimed that he was trying to cross over to the neighbouring country. He was arrested near Khairpur by the military intelligence, the sources added.

They alleged that Suresh, who was injured in police firing on the Z A Bhutto's birth anniversary, Jan 5, was a trained terrorist. He had escaped from the Chandka Medical college of Larkana after being in police custody for nearly 24 hours.

The Sindh Government had suspended a senior superintendent of police and 58 others for being negligent of their responsibility, and had also arrested certain police personnel for security leak.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto had already denied that Suresh was a RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agent saying that he had worked for the Sindh Information Minister, Perves Ali Shah, in Khairpur during the elections.

The sources disclosed that Suresh had been taken to an unknown place for interrogation by the intelligence hounds. However, it was not told that whether charges would be framed against him in court.

It may be added that Pervez Ali Shah had said that Suresh is a known "terrorist" and has been involved in over 60 cases. He had told newsmen here that some 200 RAW agents were still inside Al-Murtaza in Larkana.

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